



REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)

11. Christians seem to tend toward withdrawing from the world around us or jumping right in and participating in their darkness. How can we as Christians be “salt and light” without being defiled by darkness? How can you escape the “Christian bubble” this week to be light in the dark world of the non-Christians you know?

12. Many of your neighbors, coworkers and classmates don't know Jesus. They don't know the Bible. You are the best portrait of God they have. What needs to change in your life so you can better represent God to those around you?

13. Paul compares greed to idolatry (putting something in the place only God deserves). What things are you tempted to put ahead God (or in His place)?

- Work
- Better grades
- My fun time (golf, fishing, etc)
- My hobby
- My possessions
- My desire for more things in my life
- Other _____.

14. Last week we talked about making a commitment to go 24 hours without becoming angry. How did you do?



December 6, 2009

Ephesians #12

FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

EPHESIANS 5:1-14

Questions in bold are ones we particularly want to spend time answering. Remember, our intention is to spend more time on the Reflect section than on any other part of the discussion guide.

OPEN:



(2 minutes)

1. Did you ever have your mouth washed out with soap? What other method did your parents use for “cleaning up” your language? (Grounded, Time Out, nobody cared, etc.)
2. As a child, what is one thing about your parents you remember trying to copy?
3. Surely someone here can do an impression (or imitation) of a famous person. Demonstrate for the group.





Read Ephesians 5:1-14

4. What is the standard Paul sets for Christians in verses 1-2 and 8-10?
5. What is the difference between “foolish talk or coarse joking” (v.4) and a good laugh? Between the “fruitless deeds of darkness” (v.11) and good clean fun?
6. Why does Paul state that greedy people are idolaters? (v.5)
7. **When have you felt pressured to go along with the crowd even when you knew it wasn't right? What do verses 5 and 6 say about resisting peer pressure? What advice do you have about resisting peer pressure?**
8. **To some 'holy' is a pejorative term. To others, it means a person is weird. What does 'holy' really mean? If we are truly holy, what will others see in us that lets them know we are holy?**
9. What are the consequences, practically speaking, when something that is holy is treated as though it is not?
10. If you were a “Reader's Digest” editor assigned to pare this section down to two or three or verses, which would you choose?



Christian Bubble —

A description that applies to Christians when all their friends and social opportunities revolve around church activities, leaving no opportunity for them to build redemptive relationships with nonbelievers.