



THE CHRISTIAN IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

Over the past few weeks Pastor John has addressed complex and divisive issues including race, politics, and sexuality. Such topics can be polarizing and conversations about them can often escalate and become heated quite quickly. In this week's curriculum, then, we'll be considering how to engage in such volatile conversations in healthy and godly ways.

SUNDAY SERVE TEAMS

This past Sunday was the last time we are going to make announcements about signing up for Sunday Serve Teams. If you haven't taken time in your LG to let folks sign up yet, please do so today. We are looking to build teams in a couple crucial areas and need your help getting as many people on board as possible. Folks can fill out the survey either through the Epicentre Church app or at epicenter.church/serve.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

BIBLE DISCUSSION: Ephesians 4:25-32

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. **26** "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** and do not give the devil a foothold. **28** Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. **29** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Introduction Question: Have you ever gotten into an altercation over a divisive issue?

Key discussion questions:

- What are things that Paul warns us against doing? Why does he do this?
- How does Paul encourage us to engage with others—particularly in situations where we might be tempted to get angry?
- How does the world engage with each other over divisive issues? How should we who are called to be salt and light?

Reflection Question: How can I be salt and light in today's atmosphere where complex issues threaten to divide our communities?

Small Group: Break up into groups of 3-4 to share how we can be salt and light in the way we engage with those around us particularly over potentially divisive issues. Then take time to pray for each other in these things.

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