We Are Transformed
SERIES BIG IDEA
Working through the book of Ephesians, we will discover where we are, and our next step on our PATHWAY with Jesus.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA
When we follow Jesus, we are transformed in our character.

OPENING QUESTIONS
1. How is the COVID 19 pandemic changing you?

THE GOOD NEWS
Paul begins chapter 5 of Ephesians with some good news. Jesus gave up his life by dying on the cross on our behalf as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin.

… walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

4. How does Jesus death on the cross change your life?

THE BAD NEWS
For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Ephesians 5:5

This does not mean that our behavior determines whether or not we inherit the “kingdom of God.” This means that when we are outside of Christ - when we have not chosen to follow Jesus – we are making other things our idols. We are choosing our way instead of God’s way. And when we do this, it is idolatry and idolatry keeps us from experiencing all the good things that God has for us (inheritance in the kingdom of God).

5. We cannot earn the inheritance that God wants to give us by good behavior; we can only get the inheritance through a connection to Jesus. What is your reaction to this truth:
   a. Surprise
   b. Hope
   c. Gratefulness
   d. Confusion
   e. Disagreement
   f. Other

DARKNESS VS. LIGHT
For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

6. Describe your journey of moving from darkness to light.

7. How does “living as children of the light” transform your character?

CHARACTER TRANSFORMATION
Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit... Ephesians 5:17-18
Maybe you have decided to follow Jesus, but don’t see transformation in your character. Paul gives us two things in this verse that are part of our pathway to transformation.

- Understand what the Lord’s will is
- Be filled with the Spirit

8. What are some things you can do to understand the Lord’s will?

9. What do you think it means to be filled with the Spirit?

**RELATIONSHIP TRANSFORMATION**

Coming into the light of Christ is a transformative experience that will change our character. And when our character changes, it affects our closest relationships. Paul gives us an example of this as he closes chapter 5.

Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ. Ephesians 5:21

10. How might “submitting” to each other (putting others needs before our own) transform our relationships?

**MICRO GROUP**

Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Micro groups should be same sex – all men or all women. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

**H2O – Habits to Outcome**

Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, accountability, journaling, and serving) lead to the outcomes of **Character Transformation** and **Calling Activation**. In this series we will focus on the habit of **Bible engagement** as we read through the Book of Ephesians together.

Last week we read through Ephesians 4 and journaled something God was saying to us.

11. Share what you journaled with the group.


**This week we will:**

Read Ephesians 5 and journal these two questions: What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

Go to pathway.restorecc.org. Click the “influence” button, scroll down to resources and watch the video called “Ephesians Overview.”

**Close your micro group by praying for each other.**

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*Character Transformation* means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

*Calling Activation* means that you are living our your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)