



THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | SERIES: MADE TO THRIVE

TITLE: GO MORE

SCRIPTURE: EPISTLE PHESIANS 5:1-2, 6-14, 15-17

One Thing Follow-up:

Last week we discussed that all of us have been given a gift from God. These gifts are to be used to build up the church and there were 5 categories. Ephesians 4:11 listed the categories as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

Q. If you weren't sure of your gift, did you get an opportunity to learn your gift last week and what is it?

Q. If you know your gift, did you have or make an opportunity to use your gift outside of church?

We are not the end user of these gifts and they are meant to be used to transform us, our families, our communities, our workplaces, and the world.

Opening

Share of a time when the lights when out or you found yourself in complete darkness.

Series Review:

In the Made to Thrive series Steve has been teaching through the book of Ephesians. We have heard the following messages:

1. Less Effort, More Jesus
2. Less Volunteers, More Masterpieces
3. Less Guilt, More Love
4. Less Hierarchy, More Missionaries

This week we covered Less Program, More Mission Fields.

Ephesians was written Paul in approximately 60 A.D., while he was on house arrest in Rome. This Epistle or letter was written to the church in Ephesus but was meant to be shared with the wider church in southwestern Asia Minor. The main themes of the letter are unity, Christ, Church, and the Trinity.

**Reviewing
the
Message:**

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

Q. Paul says that we should be “imitators of God.” What does this mean? In what ways should we imitate God? Why?

If we want to understand God better, we should look at Jesus. Jesus’ love for us and everyone is the motivating factor for everything he did.

Q. When do you feel God’s love for you? Do you?

Read Ephesians 5:6-14

Verse 6-7 states “Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for God’s wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things. Therefore, do not become their partners.”

Q. In what ways do we become partners with darkness? How can we be in the world but not of the world?

Q. What does it mean to be light? How should this light shine where we work, live, and play?

Verse 9 discusses the “fruit of the light” as being all goodness, all righteousness, and all truth.

- All goodness – we do what is good for others and not merely what is good for us.
- All righteousness – we do what is right and pleasing to God.
- All truth – we live Christ’s truth in every aspect of our lives.

Q. Which one of these fruits do you struggle with and why?

The church’s mission is to shine light everywhere there is darkness. This plays out in our lives every day. As a church, we will never be more collectively than we are as individuals.

Read Ephesians 5:15-17

This text reminds us that we must be serious about making the most of every day. God has given us time and relationships that should be stewarded.

Share a time when someone demonstrated “goodness, righteousness, and truth” in a way that made a difference in your life.



**Living It Out
Application:**

We have been adopted into the family of God through the love of our savior Jesus. We should not be looking for the next church program to be a part of, but instead should GO into our part of the world and be the church.

Q. Loving people can be difficult and at times discouraging. How has Jesus been patient with you? How does Jesus' love provide encouragement to love when it is difficult?

Q. What is God saying to you through this study?

Q. Who is one person that you can show the love of God to this week?

Q. How can we help you to love others well?

Prayer:

(Consider breaking up into small groups of 3 or 4, as couples, or as just men and just women)

We should pray that as individuals and as the church that we could follow Jesus' example and show the world that God loves them.

Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?