

WITNESS – Reaching out to others **(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)**

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

1 Relationships

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one. In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

2 Health

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

3 Wealth

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

4 Education

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

5 Church

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you. **Amen**

Live in Love, Live in Light **8**

Ephesians 5:1–21

Purpose:

To continue to examine what it means for us to live worthy of our calling.

WELCOME (Aim for 10 minutes)

What is the last thing you learnt and how did you learn it? From a conversation, a talk, a book, the TV...?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord **(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)**

What has been the best thing that has happened since our last meeting?

OR

When have you felt closest to God since our last meeting?

Pray your “thank you” to God

WORD (Aim for 40—45 minutes)

Not doing what is wrong is one thing. But sometimes it can be even more difficult to do what is right. In Ephesians 5 Paul continues to outline what it means “to live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (4:1). He does this by considering ways we shouldn't act and ways we should.

1. Read Ephesians 5:1–21. In verses 1–2 Paul says that just as children imitate their parents, so we are to imitate God. What have you observed about God which you have begun or could begin to imitate?

2. How is thanksgiving an appropriate replacement for the behaviour Paul condemns in 5:3–4?

How can you use thanksgiving to replace improper behaviour in your life?

3. Why will immoral, impure or greedy people be unable to inherit the kingdom (vv. 5–7)? Why are such people considered idolaters?

4. In verses 8–14 Paul contrasts light and darkness to say more about holy living. According to these verses, what does it mean to “live as children of light“?

5. Often we equate wisdom with intelligence. What characterizes wise people according to 5:15–17?

6. How can you live more wisely then?

7. Verses 19–21 look like four separate commands in English. In Greek, however, they are actually linked grammatically to verse 18 and describe several beneficial results of being filled with the Spirit. In your own words, explain the characteristics of those who are filled with the Spirit.

8. Do these results occur automatically when we are filled with the Spirit or must we also treat them as commands to be followed? Explain.

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