



## DISCUSSION GUIDE OCTOBER 3, 2021

### Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

As Christians, we are to love virtue. Galatians 5:22-23 lists what virtues will be evident in us when we live in step with the Spirit. Are some of these easier (more natural) for you than others? How do you try/train to cultivate the more challenging fruits?

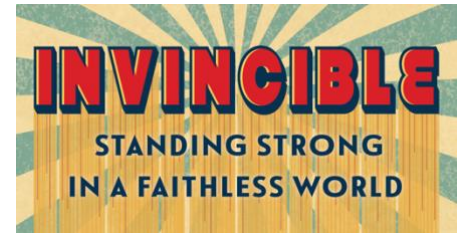
### Dig Deep

Read Scripture: Ephesians 5: 1-21

- We are called to be “imitators of God” in Ephesians 5:1. What does that look like in your life?
- God gives us some responsibility for others’ weaknesses. Why do you think He does this? Is this fair?
- Think about different Christian communities (Puritans, monasteries, churches). Does living in community help us to do what is right? Why or why not?
- Scripture is a balance between what to avoid and what to pursue. Read 1 Cor 6:18, 1 Cor 10:14, 1 Tim 6:9-11 and 2 Tim 2:22. What things does God tell us to **FLEE** in these passages?
- What kind of image does the word “flee” bring up? (How is it different from stroll, amble, trot, or saunter?)
- These same verses point out things we should **PURSUE** (what are they?).
- Is it easier to flee something or pursue its opposite? Which is more helpful to you when it comes to avoiding sin?
- It’s always more difficult to withstand/avoid temptations when they are kept secret. Talk about confession. How do we handle this as a community? How can we do better?

### Do Big

- Ask God to show you what sins you should flee this week. Is there someone in your community or small group you can ask to check in, pray with you, hold you accountable?
- Ask God to give you something to pursue instead. What can you focus on when temptation strikes?
- Ask someone if you can help them with a struggle. What would it look like to “hold someone accountable” or support a brother/sister?



### LEADERS

#### Read

Ephesians 5:1-21 &

1 Cor. 8:7-13

#### Background:

Luke 11:25 tells the story of a house being swept clean of evil spirits. When the owner of the house neglects to fill the space with something else, the spirits come back even stronger than before. Discuss this story in your group. What lessons does it have for us in doing what’s right?

#### Key Thoughts

We are not alone in avoiding sin. We have a community of believers and the strength of the Holy Spirit giving us power.

#### Weekly Memory Verse

“For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8