

# Community Group Discussion Guide

## Noticeably Different

Text: Ephesians 5:15–20

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## Read the Passage Together

Ephesians 5:15–20

Ask someone to read it aloud slowly.

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## Context Reminder (Leader Brief)

Paul gives three contrasts:

1. Not unwise, but wise
2. Not foolish, but understanding God's will
3. Not drunk with wine, but filled with the Spirit

The goal? A life that is **noticeably different** in a dark culture.

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## Discussion Section 1: Not Unwise, But Wise (Redeeming the Time)

Read Matthew 7:24.

Discussion Questions:

1. When Paul says “redeem the time,” what do you think he means?
2. Where do you most feel like your time gets “enslaved”?
3. What is one small change that would help you use your time more intentionally for eternal purposes?
4. How does obedience to Jesus' words (Matt. 7:24) connect to living wisely?

**Leader Insight:**

The word redeem means to “buy back” or “liberate.” Wisdom is not knowledge—it’s obedience.

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## **Discussion Section 2: Not Foolish, But Understand God’s Will**

**Read Romans 12:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18.**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does renewing your mind help you understand God’s will?
  2. Why do you think thanksgiving is directly connected to God’s will?
  3. What tends to dominate your thinking more: gratitude or complaint?
  4. Where are you tempted to conform to the pattern of this world?
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## **Discussion Section 3: Not Drunk With Wine, But Filled With the Spirit**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to be “filled” with something?
2. What influences shape you most right now? (media, work culture, friend group, politics, entertainment, etc.)
3. Why do you think Paul compares drunkenness with being filled with the Spirit?
4. What would active surrender to the Spirit look like this week?

**Key Idea:**

There is no neutral state. We are always being influenced by something.

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## **Lent Fast Conversation (Optional)**

1. What is one thing that shapes you more than you’d like to admit?
2. What would it look like to remove that influence for a season?
3. How could fasting create space for the Spirit to fill you?