



## Life Group Leader Guide

---

### Instructions

Leading a group can be intimidating... but here's some help. Included in this packet are three main parts to help you prepare. Don't be intimidated... remember... the Holy Spirit is with you to empower you to grow and help others grow as you study His word and practice applying it to your life.

1. **Lotz Worksheet** – This is a fancy “doodle” sheet. Print it off and start making observations. Look for phrases that simplify what is being said, then summarize it... and turn your summary into a question. Consider it... Bible scratch paper!
2. **Lotz Outline** – This is the rough ideas that Fr Greg came up with as he “doodled” his way through the passage. The first line (underlined) is from the second column of the LOTZ worksheet and the questions are his thoughts. Don't be afraid if you come up with something different... and don't be afraid to send what you find to Greg.
3. **Reflection Worksheet** – This has two parts and it is a great way to keep digging into the passage for yourself.
  - a. **Biblical and Gospel Reflection** – These are just a set of questions I filter every passage through. They can be helpful as you think through moving from “study” to “teaching”.
  - b. **Small Group Questions** – These are Open, Dig, and Apply questions that we'd suggest for your group. An “Open” question simply gets people thinking about what they're going to learn. It's like “teeing up the ball” for the conversation. A “Dig” question helps you jump into the Bible – after all just hearing everyone's opinion on Life can be boring. This helps you see what God has to say. Finally, the “Apply” questions are there to help you put some practical “so what” application into your mind.

As always... if you need help... we're here to coach you through this. Send an email and we'll help you out!

**Look/Analyze/Homiletics/Listen**

Look at God’s Word	Exegetical Analysis	Lessons (Homiletics)	Listen to His Voice
<p><b>Begin by reading the passage of Scripture. Underline, circle, or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study</b></p>	<p><i>What does the passage say? Use the words of the text to list the most outstanding and obvious facts. Don’t paraphrase; be literal as you list the facts. Put simplifications in [ ] .</i></p>	<p><i>What does the passage mean? Identify a lesson to learn from each fact. Focus on spiritual lessons.</i></p>	<p><i>What does the passage mean to me? Rewrite the lessons from the previous column in the form of questions. Be personal as you formulate your questions.</i></p>
<p><b>5</b> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <b>2</b> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.</p> <p><b>3</b> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <b>4</b> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <b>5</b> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <b>6</b> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <b>7</b> Therefore do not become partners with them; <b>8</b> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <b>9</b> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <b>10</b> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <b>11</b> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <b>12</b> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <b>13</b> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <b>14</b> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,</p>			

<p>“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”</p> <p><sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.</p>			
--	--	--	--

## Lotz Outline

### Lotz Exegetical Analysis / Big Idea

1 Verse(s)

- Questions
- Notes
- Illustrations

### **Text:**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

<sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

<sup>5</sup> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them;

<sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

<sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

<sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

<sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,

<sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,

and arise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,

<sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

<sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

<sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

<sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

## Biblical Reflection

- Theme: In one sentence, what is the main point of the passage?
- Aim: In one sentence, how did the author intend his audience to apply the passage?
- How does this text point to the work of salvation in Jesus?
  - (See “Preaching the Gospel” below for a hints).
- Old Testament
  1. How does this passage move the storyline of the Bible toward the 1<sup>st</sup> advent?
- New Testament
  1. Is there a resolution of the OT storyline, or movement toward the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent?
  2. Does the passage show what Jesus has accomplished by his life, death, or resurrection?
  3. How are these things displayed as the plan of God? How are they made real by the Spirit?

## Gospel Reflection

- What faith (in an idol) or fear does this confront?
  - Personal idols
  - Religious idols
  - Cultural idols
- How does this point to Jesus being the solution? How is He a better solution to all the other problems?
- How is Jesus perceived as the climax of this text?
- How is this practical and how is Jesus the solution?
- How does this text point to Jesus ready presence and/or holy otherness?
- How are we missing Jesus in our actions as seen in/through this text? Worship problems (fear/idolatry) Identity problems (amnesia)
- Preaching the Gospel to ourselves

## Small Group Questions

**Open – Pick one or two to open the discussion**

- How do you feel about authority? What do you think when you hear the word “authority”?
- What is it like for you to know something for sure?

**Dig – Read the passage now, then ask the following questions to dig into what the Bible says**

- What warning does Paul give in verses 5-7? In this context, what would it mean to be deceived with empty words?
- Why would Paul call immoral, impure, or greedy people idolaters?
- Paul contrasts light and darkness to say more about holy living. As light in the Lord, how are we to live (vv 8-21)?
- Why is it important that sin is made visible (v 13)?
- According to verses 8-14, what should be a Christian’s response and attitude toward X-rated TV, pornography on the internet, and “adult” literature? How far should a Christian go in “exposing” the darkness?
- What are the beneficial results of being filled with the Holy Spirit (vv 19-21)?
- Why do you think it would be necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to submit to one another?
- What is Paul saying to you in his drunkenness illustration? Could anyone accuse you of being “under the influence” of the Holy Spirit?
- What does Paul want those who feel trapped in the filth of a sex-mad world to do (vv 19-20)?

**Apply – Make it practical... what will you take with you as you go out?**

- In what areas of your life are you most tempted toward idolatry?
- Note that Paul says, “Be very careful” (v 15). We all take care over the things which seems to us to matter – our job, education, home and family, hobbies, appearance... So as Christians we must be watchful over our Christian life. How can we take care of our Christian life?
- The light metaphor speaks vividly of Christian openness and transparency, of living joyfully in the presence of Christ, with nothing to hide or fear. As a child of light, how do you expose evil around you?
- How could you live more wisely?

Life Group Questions collected from the following resources: Serendipity’s [Interactive Study Bible](#) (NIV); [Who Do You Think You Are?](#) by Mark Driscoll; Ephesians: [God’s Big Plan for Christ’s New People](#) by Thabiti Anyabwile; [Ephesians: Building a Community in Christ](#) by John Stott. Paraphrasing used where necessary to better communicate with the Holy Cross community of faith.

## General Small Group Questions

- What new thing did you discover in the story?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about people?
- Which person is most like you in the story?
- What will you take away from this discussion?
- What will you do with what you have learned?