

## Small Group Questions | Be Made New | Ephesians 4



For ten weeks this summer we're going to talk about spiritual formation. There are a variety of words used to describe the process of spiritual growth. We are all being formed into something. We are all pointing our lives in a direction. As we consider growing spiritually, we need to slow down and think of what that direction might be. In Ephesians 4, Paul teaches the early church about leaving their life of sin to be formed in Christ. Paul planted this church about five years prior and knows they are not continuing in their spiritual formation. Without using the word "*sanctification*," he teaches about the process of how sinful humans are made holy by God. This summer, we encourage you to think about how God is presently shaping your life.

1. On stage there were a variety of items from a stroller to a motorcycle. Pastor Neal taught us about the physical maturity of a human and then about the spiritual growth of a person. Where are you in the spiritual growth process?
2. **Read Ephesians 4:17-19.** Paul reminds the early church that they have walked away from growing spiritually. **Read Colossians 2:6-7, John 15:1-8, and Romans 12:1-2.** What happens when we stay connected to Jesus and keep growing spiritually?
3. Looking at the same passages, talk about what happens when we choose to slowly drift away from the Lord? **Read Genesis 4:7, Psalm 51:5, Mark 2:5, and 1 Corinthians 5:17-21.** How does sin hurt our relationship with Jesus?
4. Paul teaches us about what he taught the local church. **Read Ephesians 4:20-21.** When you think about the truth of Jesus Christ, what verses come to mind? What is the true message of Jesus that we need to share (see **John 8:32**)?
5. **Read Ephesians 4:22-24.** Paul lays out the three stages of our spiritual life. First, we trust Jesus. Then our life is transformed. Finally, we live out that hope in Jesus as our lives continue to be transformed. Share where you're currently growing.
6. **Read Ephesians 4:25-32.** Paul teaches the early church about how to leave their life of sin. He even goes the extra mile in teaching them to not only get a job but to be generous with others. Looking at this list of sins and struggles, what sin are you struggling with most in life right now?
7. When we think about spiritual growth, we have to make sure we're not simply working on behavior modification. Talk with your group about how you make sure that you are partnering with the Holy Spirit in this work and not relying only on yourself.
8. Close your time in prayer.