

## June 16, 2024 – Small Groups – Leader's Guide

### Read Ephesians 5:15-21

1. What are your experiences or ideas in "being filled with the Spirit", if any?

*Allow for open sharing. Some may share bad or abusive experiences of how being filled with the Spirit looked like. Be empathetic and open to conversation.*

2. Paul explains what being Spirit-filled means with 3 pairs of parallel thoughts that are related to each other, which complete the meaning of what it means to be Spirit-filled. For the 1st pair, being wise means making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. What does this mean?

*Jewish wisdom is the creative and preserving force of the cosmos. To be wise then is to make or create the best use of the time, no matter how evil the days are. To be wise is to live out the image of God to create good and beauty out of time, and to also preserve what is good and beautiful in our time.*

3. For the 2nd pair, understanding the Lord's will means living out our freedom but recognising the fences around us. What does this look like in our lives?

*There isn't a precise or exact will of God in each decision we have to make in life. God gave us freedom to exercise godly wisdom and creativity to make a variety of good decisions in every circumstance. We only need to heed the fences that shape and form our freedom within healthy and godly parameters.*

4. For the 3rd pair, being filled with the Spirit uses tabernacle-temple language whenever the glory and presence of God fills the temple, culminating in the whole earth being filled with God's glory as the waters cover the seas. How can we be filled more with the Holy Spirit?

*We pray and ask always to be filled with the Spirit. To be filled isn't only a weekly top-up at church each Sunday. Being filled is an every-moment opportunity whenever we ask God to fill us with wisdom, with grace, with strength, with the Holy Spirit whenever we encounter difficulty, conflict, stress, or tragedy. Even in the good and joyful moments, we still ask to be filled so we can be grateful, blessing others with our being blessed, to be generous, and to share.*