

Going deeper

The later chapters of Ezekiel offer a future vision of a restored Israel. Ezekiel was writing during the time of the Israelite exile in Babylon during the 6th century BC. The vision goes beyond a literal description of what Israel would be like after the exile. Rather, it gives an idealised vision of a perfect future in terms that would be understood by those looking back on the Jerusalem they had lost. As such it helps us see something of the glory of the New Jerusalem promised at the end of time (Revelation 21:2).

Read Ezekiel 47:1-12

5. The temple was understood to be God's dwelling place. What is the source of the river? What does this teach us about God?
6. What does the depth of the river show us about God's provision?
7. The Dead Sea has no life, because it is too salty. How does this river contrast with the Dead Sea and what does it do to it?
8. What does this water from the temple bring about in abundance?
9. This is pure water, flowing in abundance from the Holy Temple. What does this teach us about the impact of God's purity on our lives?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Week Beginning
Sunday 4th March 2018**

Growth Team News

Growth Teams were all snowed out last week, but – God willing – they will be back this week. They are an excellent opportunity to share with others as we think together about what it means to be church. Why not join one for what's left of Lent?

As it says in Hebrews 10:25: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..." Growth Teams provide the perfect way to be able to do just that.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

People of Purity

Ephesians 4:25-5:8 (page 1176)

Space to take notes on the talk

Purity: The way _____

What is purity?

❖ **Pure in our** _____

❖ **Pure in our** _____

❖ **Pure in our** _____

Starter question

❖ What things or people do you associate with purity?

Responding to the talk

1. What part of this week's talk do you think we as a church most need to hear?
2. Read Ephesians 4:17-24
 - a. What is Paul's diagnosis of the world without God?
 - b. What are we meant to be like now we are joined with Jesus?
 - c. In what ways are we enabled to become as God calls us?
3. Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2
 - a. Which of the behaviours that Paul lists do you think most challenge the world's behaviour today?
 - b. What reasons does Paul give for behaving in these ways?
 - c. How do these behaviours live out the values of love and truth?
4. Read Ephesians 5:3-8
 - a. What does this section say is wrong with sexual immorality and greed?
 - b. What warnings are there for people who consistently live in this way?
 - c. How does 5:8 link back to 4:17-18?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. What are people's attitudes to the kind of 'pure living' talked about in Ephesians 4 & 5? How does our attitude towards it need to change as Christians?
11. How would following this teaching help us to live as children of light in the world? In what ways would this make us a more attractive church to the world around?