

Series: DEEP ROOTS

8/2/2020

Message: Strong Families

Text: Ephesians 4:29-5:2

## DIGGING DEEPER GUIDE

### BIG IDEA: STRONG FAMILIES ARE HELD TOGETHER BY GOD'S LOVE

#### Getting Started

What is the pet peeve that most frequently causes you to become frustrated with people?

#### Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. "Be imitators of God..." (v.1) What are the positive motivations that prompt you live a Christian life? Where do you feel you are making progress in your Christian life?
2. What grade would you give yourself on putting vs.29 into practice this week? Why are our words so powerful?
3. From vs.31-32, what negative attitudes should we eliminate and what positive attitudes should we cultivate?
4. Of all the commands given here for Christian living, which seems to be the major command God is challenging you with in your life?
5. When has bitterness been a temptation in your life? Have bitter roots ever grown up to cause trouble for you?
6. Do you know someone who could be bitter but isn't? How do you think he/she does it? How challenging is compassion and forgiveness when someone has hurt you?
7. What are the prayer requests on your mind today?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, help us to imitate you in our lives by what we say, think, and do. May we focus on words that encourage and build up, especially in our families, this week. Help us to let go of things that cause hurt and forgive each other, as you have called us to do. Amen.

**Going Deeper:** Read James 3:1-12 that also talks about the power of the tongue. What do you see here that is similar to or different from what Paul writes about in Ephesians 4:29-5:2?

### FOCUS SCRIPTURES:

*"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* Ephesians 5:1-2

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."* Ephesians 4:29

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*