

Next Gen Takeover

Week of July 12, 2026

READ:

Ephesians 4:17–5:21; Ephesians 6:1–4 ; Deuteronomy 6:6–7 ; Proverbs 18:21 ; Hebrews 10:24 ; Galatians 5:22–23

KEY POINTS:

- Jesus Gives Us a New Way to Live – Following Jesus is more than believing the right things; it means putting off the old self and putting on the new self as we are transformed by the Gospel (Ephesians 4:17–24).
- The Gospel Changes the Way We Treat Each Other – Because of Christ, our homes and relationships should be marked by truth, forgiveness, encouragement, compassion, and grace rather than anger, bitterness, and harshness (Ephesians 4:25–32).
- Healthy Families Reflect the Character of God – Children are called to honor and obey their parents, while parents are called to lead with love and intentionally raise their children in the training and instruction (Ephesians 6:1–4).
- We Are Called to Walk in Love and Light – As dearly loved children of God, we imitate our Heavenly Father by living in a way that is characterized by sacrificial love, holiness, and integrity rather than returning to the darkness of our old way of life (Ephesians 5:1–13).
- The Holy Spirit Empowers Spiritual Transformation – God never intended us to live the Christian life through willpower alone. As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, He produces the fruit that transforms our families, relationships, and everyday lives (Ephesians 5:18–21; Galatians 5:22–23).

QUESTIONS:

1. Paul describes the Christian life as "putting off the old self" and "putting on the new self" (Ephesians 4:22–24). What does this imagery teach us about the ongoing process of spiritual transformation? Why is following Jesus more than simply changing behaviors?
2. Ephesians 6 calls both children and parents to specific responsibilities based on our identity as beloved children of God. How do these instructions reflect God's design for families, and what do they reveal about His character?
3. Christian homes aren't perfect, they are places where spiritual formation becomes visible. How does that perspective change the way we think about conflict, failure, and growth within our families and then Church?
4. Read Ephesians 5:1–2 and 5:8–10. Paul calls believers to "walk in love" and "walk in light." What does each of those look like practically in your relationships?
5. The Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). Does your identity reflect the fruit the Holy Spirit is producing in you?
6. What area of this lesson challenged or encouraged you the most, and how do you want it to shape the way you live this week?

LIFE APPLICATION

- Take Inventory of the "Old Self" - Spend a few quiet moments reflecting on Ephesians 4:22–32. Ask yourself:
 - Where does my old self show up most often?
 - Which attitudes or habits continue to create tension in my relationships?
 - What would "putting on the new self" look like?
- Practice Intentional Encouragement - Proverbs reminds us that "the tongue has the power of life and death." Choose one family member, friend, or coworker to intentionally encourage every day this week.

- Lead Spiritually at Home - Whether you live with children, roommates, a spouse, or by yourself, set aside intentional time this week to worship, read Scripture, or pray together with someone, or begin establishing that rhythm personally if you live alone.
- Walk in Step with the Spirit - Instead of trying harder through your own strength, begin each day by asking the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit in your life and to help you respond to others with love, patience, gentleness, and self-control.

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Thank You for making us new through Jesus Christ. Thank You for not leaving us to rely on our own strength, but for giving us Your Holy Spirit to transform us from the inside out. Help us put off our old ways of living and put on the new life You have given us. Teach us to speak words that bring life, to forgive as You have forgiven us, and to walk in love and light every day. Strengthen our families and our church to become places where people see the Gospel lived out. Show us how to invest in the next generation and faithfully model what it means to follow You. May our homes and relationships reflect Your grace, truth, and love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.