

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)*

## **Like You**

I know that I am your child. You called me to come to you. You rescued me from a life without you. I was headed in completely the wrong direction. I was on a path that led away from you. I was living and walking in darkness. You turned my life around. You set me on firm ground. You made it so I could live in a relationship with you. Now, I can hear your voice. You are calling me to go deeper. You are asking me to walk closer to you. **Yes, I am.** I welcome your call on my life. I want what you want. I know that I have said that many times. It is true. I want to know you intimately. I want to become like you. **Then we both want the same thing.** Yes, I know. I yearn to be like you. There is nothing I want more. I invite you to do your work in my life. **I have taken you up on that invitation. You have given me this invitation many times.** Yes, I know. I don't mind saying it over and over again. **I don't mind hearing you say it again and again. Your wholehearted invitation for me to work in your life gives me great joy.** I am very glad about that. In every way I want to do what pleases you. **Yes, I know.**

**You do know who you will become like? You do know who is your example and role model?** Yes, I know. Your son, Jesus Christ, is my example and role model. As I love, follow, and serve you, I will become like Him. He was a fragrant and sacrificial offering to you. I also want my life to be a fragrant and sacrificial offering to you. He lived His life motivated by His love for you. **Yes, He did.** I also will live my life motivated by my love for you. I love you with all my heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. Sometimes, I feel like I am going to burst because I feel so full of love for you. **That is very good.** I want to love like He loved. I want to give like He gave. I want to live as He lived. That is why I am here now in this quiet place. As I draw near to you, I know that you will draw near to me. **Yes, I will. That is a certainty.** I know that you will make me more and more like you as I am in your presence and near to you. **Yes, I will. You cannot remain unchanged as you draw near to me.** That is what I will keep on doing as I love, follow, and serve you. **That will be very good.**

*God, as your child I want to become like you. I want to know you. I want to walk in your ways. With your help, I will follow your son Jesus Christ as my example. I will love like He loved. I will give like He gave. I want my life to be a fragrant offering to you. Amen*

**Guidance** *Be Imitators Of God*

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.

NIV Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Be Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

ESV Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Imitate God*

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

NLT Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Be Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

NKJV Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Be Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

NRSV Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Watch What God Does*

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

MSG Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Be Imitators Of God*

THEREFORE BE imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]. And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

AMP Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Follow God's Example*

Follow God's example in everything you do just as a much loved child imitates his father. Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ's love for you was like sweet perfume to him.

TLB Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Be Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

NASB Ephesians 5:1-2

**Guidance** *Try To Be Like Him*

You are God's children whom he loves, so try to be like him. Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.

NCV Ephesians 5:1-2

# Be Imitators Of God

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Guidance** – Ephesians 5:1-2

**In Context:** *Read Ephesians 5*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Therefore | be imitators | of God, | as | beloved children. | And walk | in love, | as Christ | loved us | and | gave himself up | for us, | a fragrant offering | and | sacrifice | to God. Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

**Praying The Scripture:**

***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

God, as your child I want to become like you. I want to know you. I want to walk in your ways. With your help, I will follow your son Jesus Christ as my example. I will love like He loved. I will give like He gave. I want my life to be a fragrant offering to you. Amen

**What It Means:**

***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

**How has becoming a child of God and being given a new life in Christ motivated you to become like Him?**

How different is your new life from your old life since you became a child of God and imitator of Him?

**How are you following Jesus Christ as your example of how to imitate God and walk in His love?**

How is your life of loving, following, and serving God like a fragrant offering and sacrifice to Him?

**What patterns, practices, and habits have hindered you from imitating God and walking in love?**

When have others told you that they have noticed that you are becoming more Christ-like?

What are you doing now that you have not done before because you are imitating God and walking in His love?

**Living It Out:**

***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Imitate God by living and walking in the love of Christ as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Seeing It Happen:**

***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will become like God as you imitate Him and walk in love just as Jesus Christ walked in love.

**Get Ready To Share:**

***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God is helping you to imitate Him as you walk in Christ's love.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you, as a child of God, imitate Him by walking in love as Christ walked in love and gave himself to others.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, help me to imitate you by walking in love just as you walked in love and gave yourself to others.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I imitate you and walk in love and give myself to others today?*

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