

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010

Passage: Col. 3:19

Memory Passage: Col. 3:19

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 5:7-8, John 10:11-15, 15:13, and 1 John 3:16.** What do you learn about Christ's love for His people?
- (b) How would you, using one word, fill in the blank in this sentence: Jesus' love for his people is a _____ love.
- (c) **Read Ephesians 5:25.** For the rest of this week, if you are a husband, write your answers in the first person. In other words, don't just write, "A husband should . . ." write "I should . . ." Given what you learned about Christ's love for His church, how would you interpret this command for husbands to "love their wives as Christ loved the church?" What similarities are there to Christ's actions on behalf of the church and husbands actions on behalf of their wives?
- (d) What does it mean for a husband to "give himself up" for his wife? Give specific examples of what this looks like.
- (e) *Family:* Pass out paper and pencils. Say: "Write down all the ways you can think of that would show you that one person loves another person." Have everyone share his or her answers. Then **Read John 10:11-15** and teach your family of the ultimate act of love performed by Christ on behalf of His people. Now **Read Eph. 5:25** and discuss what it means for a husband to love his wife in this sacrificial way. Involve your family in this by asking probing questions that lead them to answer and dig into the passage with you.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:25-33.** Jesus sanctifies His people "by the washing of water with the word" (v. 26). What does this mean?
- (b) What three purposes are found in v. 27 for this sanctifying & cleansing? When do these results come to fruition? What affect to they have on the life of a believer today?
- (c) Since husbands are told to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and this description of purification is part of the way Christ loved the church, how should husbands apply this truth to loving their wives? What does it look like (be specific)?
- (d) *Family:* Think of an item that you have enough of for each member of your family to have one (combs, hats, toys, forks, anything that can be "used"). Make sure that each item is dirty and would need to be cleansed prior to using, and place each item in a bowl or bucket on the table. Tell everyone to choose an item and place it in front of them. Ask: "What is the first thing you want to do to your (item)?" (Wash it!) "Why would you need to wash or cleanse it" (Because we can't use it until it is cleansed!) If they don't get to these answers, keep asking questions until you get these answers. Now **Read Eph. 5:26-27** and explain the idea of Christ sanctifying (cleansing us from our sin setting us apart for His service) in the same they needed to cleanse their (object) before putting it into service. Explain how Christ died so we could be cleansed from our sin and used by Him, a holy God, for His glory.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:25-33.** How does a husband love his wife as his own body? Why is this a demonstration of his love for her?
- (b) How does Christ nourish & and cherish His church? Write down as many ways as you can think of in which a husband should nourish and cherish his wife. If you are a husband, prioritize this list and commit to implementing at least two of these ideas each week until your list is exhausted (then make a new list and do it again! ☺)
- (c) *Family:* If you have a family pet, use it as your object lesson. If not, find a picture of the cutest, most cuddly dog, cat or bunny that you can find. Ask: "Pretend that you are in charge of this animal's wellbeing. What would you do? How would you treat it?" Push for answers like "feed it, hold it, love it, find a bed for it, walk it, play with it, etc.). Then describe these actions as "nourishing & cherishing" and **Read Eph. 3:28-30** and teach that just as Christ nourishes and cherishes the church (explain how He does this) so a husband is to nourish and cherish his wife. Make a list of how he might do this.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 3:7.** Why do you think husbands need this command to "live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel?" What is the penalty if a husband does not do this?
- (b) One way to understand the positive command found in this verse is to contemplate what behavior would necessitate the command to begin with. So, what ways might a husband *not* live with his wife in an understanding way, and in what ways might he *not* show her honor?

(c) If you are a husband, in what ways are you tempted to disobey this command? From where do those feelings come, or to put it another way, what happens to instigate these ungodly responses? How can you recognize them and not capitulate to the sin of dishonoring your wife? If you are a wife, what should be your response to your husband when he disobeys 1 Pet. 3:7?

(d) *Family*: Using your white board, make 2 columns, one with the heading “live in an understanding way” and the other with the heading “do not be harsh.” Teach the difference between these by leading your family in a discussion of the differences between these two ways of living. Use examples to illustrate, and it would be good to refer to a recent time when you failed to live with your wife in an understanding way or were harsh with her, a time that your kids would remember.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 3:19.** Write a paragraph fully explaining this verse in light of what you have learned from Eph. 5 & 1 Pet. 3.

(b) In what ways are husbands tempted to be harsh with their wives? Are husbands more prone to being harsh with their wives than with other believers in general? Why do you think Paul gives this command right next to the command for husbands to love their wives?

(c) Even though husbands are not told to love only submissive wives (just as wives are not told to submit to only loving husbands), in what ways might a wife’s submission encourage & facilitate her husband loving her as Christ loves the church? Conversely, in what ways might a husband’s loving, understanding, honoring headship of his wife encourage & facilitate his wife’s submission?

(d) For husbands: What wants or desires do you have that you must set aside in order to obey these commands? Is there anything in your life that you put ahead of your wife? Is there anything or anyone that you protect your time with more than your wife? How well do you listen, I mean really listen, to your wife (this means listening to more than her words!)? Spend some time in prayer right now repenting of these things and asking God to give you a new attitude toward you wife and the strength to live out these responsibilities of a biblical husband. Then go and repent to your wife and ask for her forgiveness.

(e) *Family*: Spend time as a family memorizing Col. 3:18-19, then spend time in prayer for both mom and dad to live in the ways that you have learned about for the last 2 weeks. Encourage your kids to pray for both you and your wife, and you and your wife pray for each other.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) If you are married, spend some time today talking about these commands. Preferably do this while out on a date away from kids! Husbands, you may need to repent & ask for forgiveness for not striving daily in these endeavors. Wives, you may need to repent to your husbands for living in such a way that makes loving you as Christ loved the church difficult. Be a mutual encouragement to each other as you covet together to live obedient to these commands.

DATE: October 7, 2010

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Christ-centered Families Part II: Husbands