

## Pre-Groupie Time

Remind people to pray and update the journal.  
Give praise reports and updates.  
Follow up with your group midweek.

## Icebreaker

What item do you have in your house/garage/  
etc. that you would like to get rid of but can't?

## Scripture

Ephesians 5:21-33 Love as Christ

## Discussion

Marriage has been described as the single greatest human relationship we have on Earth in one breath, and a prison in the next. Everyone from Disney to Divorce Court have an opinion of what marriage should be.

- In a few sentences, how would you describe the ideal wife/husband/marriage?
- In verses 22 and 25, Paul gives a VERY brief description of a husband's and a wife's responsibility to each other. How close was your ideal?
- How well does Paul's statement fit with today's cultural opinions on marriage and relationships in general?

Ephesians 5 has been misused and misapplied for a very long time. Let's break it down:

- In verse 22 Paul says wives are to submit to their husbands as if to the Lord. Man or woman, what does submitting to the Lord look like?
  - What is the Lord's response to those who submit to Him? (ie: "lord over" or bless)
  - What does Paul actually say men are to do with regards to their wives in verse 25?
  - Why is it important to use Christ as the model for that love?

When we submit as to the Lord and love like Christ has loved us, it begins to reshape the story surrounding our inevitable conflicts. In Christ we see sacrificial love that leans into the mess to make the bond stronger.

- When you have a disagreement, do you turn toward or away from that person?
- What would change in your marriage if your spouse was your ALLY in your disagreements, instead of your rival? How do you do that?

Life presses in and can make it hard to remember that you are on the same team as your spouse.

- Brainstorm several ways with your group that you could remind each other how to be allies in your marriage. Now schedule them to be done ASAP!

## Pre-Groupie Time

Read the scripture and discussion topics.  
Pray for your meeting and group.  
Be the first to smile!

## Summary

If people are a mess, then marriage is a debris field. At least that's what it can feel like when we get into this most intimate of human relationships. But is the mess a bad thing?

Week 4

"What Married People  
Know"

Daniel & Brandy Knutson

# We Are Family