



## Discussion Guide

February 1

### Ephesians 5:21–6:4

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

### Read Ephesians 5:21-6:4

1. How does 5:21 set the tone for everything that follows in this passage?

2. What stands out to you about how marriage is described as a reflection of Christ's relationship with the church?
3. How does Paul redefine love and leadership within the family compared to our common cultural expectations?
4. What responsibility is given to parents—especially fathers—in chapter 6, verse 4? Why do you think this instruction matters?
5. How might this passage shape the way we think about faith being lived out at home, not just at church?

### **1 Peter 3:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup>when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. <sup>3</sup> Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. <sup>4</sup> Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. <sup>5</sup> For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. <sup>6</sup> They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. <sup>7</sup> Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

### **Read 1 Peter 3:1-7**

6. What does Peter emphasize about character and inner beauty in this passage?
7. How does verse 7 challenge husbands to think differently about power, honor, and spiritual responsibility?
8. Why do you think Peter connects the health of marriage relationships with the effectiveness of prayer?
9. How might these verses encourage faithfulness within everyday family life? What might it look like to be a faithful witness within the family?

### **Joshua 24:14–16**

<sup>14</sup> Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. <sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods!”

### **Read Joshua 24:14–16**

10. What does Joshua’s declaration in verse 15 reveal about leadership within the home?
11. Why do you think Joshua frames faithfulness as a deliberate choice rather than a passive inheritance?
12. Describe your own efforts and struggles to live this out in your own family life.
13. How might this passage shape the way families think about shared values, priorities, and spiritual direction today?