



Discussion Guide | Week 2: It's Mutual | May 24, 2020

OVERVIEW Jesus came, not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45). Not only are we to have His mindset (Philippians 2:5), but we are also called to live out of His overarching command to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34-35). Simply put, Christian marriage is meant to be a submission competition. It's meant to be a race to the back of the line. Every single day. Healthy marriages aren't built on keeping score, but instead on serving & loving one another by putting our partner's needs above our own. In Ephesians 5, the Apostle Paul lays out the principles for Christian marriage based on Jesus's command that we are to love one another as He has loved us. God uniquely calls both men & women in a marriage to give themselves up for one another in the exact same way that Jesus has given Himself up for us.

KEY VERSES Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

REMEMBER The phrase "mutual submission" can be a bit of a hot topic to discuss in our culture. When you hear those two words, what first comes to your mind? What is it that makes mutual submission so controversial? Explain.

REFLECT Have you ever been in a relationship in which the other person felt you owed them something? If so, what happened to that relationship? Share.

RESPOND Have someone read Ephesians 5:22-25. Do you think this advice to wives and husbands is realistic? Why or why not?

REAL LIFE What can you do this week to begin to treat your spouse—or lay the groundwork for treating your future spouse—as though he or she owes you nothing? How can this group support you?

PRAYER Last Sunday was the first time we've had in-person services at SCC since mid-March when the COVID-19 crisis began. Take few minutes to share how you & your family are navigating life as things have started to open back up. How can we be praying for you as you work to figure out a new normal over the next few weeks?

NOTES

1. Christian marriage is meant to be a submission competition.
2. Christian marriage is meant to be a daily race to the back of the line.
3. *Patria potestas* meant that husbands had legal jurisdiction over their wives & children.

LUNCH CHAT

ASK YOUR KIDS OR STUDENTS THESE 3 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ONLINE MESSAGE TODAY DURING LUNCH!

- 1) Who would win if you played Tug of War as a family on different teams?
- 2) Do you ever feel like a family member owes you when you have been kind? How can you start putting down the rope?
- 3) Remember, God dropped the rope first for you...what are ways you can follow his lead with your family members?

