



## Group Leader Guide

Series: Till Death Do Us Part – Week 2

Scripture: Ephesians 5:21-33

### **Leader Notes:**

Leaders, this week we come to a passage on marriage that everyone is familiar with. Ephesians 5:21-33 introduces to us a well ordered marriage. Invite people to see how God would order their marriage. Challenge them to see how God might be calling them to address issues in their marriage. This is a tough passage for some, but all of us could stand to take a closer look at it.

It is important to remember that there will be some in your group who are not married. That's ok. Everyone needs to know what marriage is supposed to look like, even if they aren't married. The reason for this is simple, Paul reminds us that marriage is about Jesus.

### **Bottom Line:**

Marriage is designed by God to display God's message.

### **Introduction:**

In Ephesians 5, Paul is elaborating on how the Christian should have a changed life because of their belief in the gospel. The gospel impacts every area of life for the Christian, that includes our marriages.

As a matter of fact, Paul is so convinced that the gospel should shape our marriages he makes an absolutely astounding statement in relation to husbands and wives, "I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." Marriage is about Jesus!

As you lead this session, let this thought guide you, if Paul's words are true, we can tell everything someone believes about Jesus by how they approach their marriage and treat their spouse. This is heavy stuff.

**BELONG – Begin by allowing the group a time to connect and care for one another! Take prayer requests and start the group in prayer.**

Ice Breaker Questions:

What is the worst argument you've ever had about something dumb?

When we read words like submission and headship in the Bible, what is your response?

Why do you think men and women are called to play different roles in marriage?

\*\*\* To the singles in the group, it's ok not to be married. Approach this series to learn about marriage in the knowledge that you are in a different place in life.

**BELIEVE – Take time to study the Bible together.**

<sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Eph 5:21–33.

**Teaching Points:**

- Mutual submission/respect is the foundation upon which marriage roles are built.
- Women are called to submit/respect their husband and his place in the home. (Note: submission is not equal to obedience like children are called to (eph. 6:1)
- Husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loved the church.
- Marriage is a type of Christ. In other words, God invented marriage in the hopes that it would mirror our relationship with Christ and point people toward Jesus.
- Paul uses verse 33 as a summary statement for the roles of men and women, wives must respect their husbands, and husbands must love their wives.

**Questions For Discussion**

What does this passage teach us about God's design for marriage?

What does it mean for a woman to submit to her husband?

What does it mean for a man to love his wife?

Is there an example of a marriage that you've seen that represents an Ephesians 5 marriage well?

How does God's roles for men and women in marriage clash with what our world says about marriage?

If your marriage is about Jesus, what does your marriage say about Jesus right now?

How should spouses walk in the roles God has called them to if their spouse is not trying to walk in their role?

**BECOME – Make application and determine to follow Christ better.**

Close the group by praying for God to protect those who are married and make their marriages strong. For those who are not married, who are single, never married, or divorced, ask God to give them wisdom to live for his kingdom as fully as possible in this season.