

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 24, 2010

Passage: Col. 3:18

Memory Passage: Col. 3:18

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Deut. 10:17, Gal. 3:28-29 & Acts 10:34-35.** What do these passages teach us about God's character with regard to His evaluation of believers? What does this aspect of God's character reveal to us about a believer's standing before Christ? Is there any one race or sex that has more worth or higher status in the kingdom? What impact should this have on the way you relate to and treat other believers?

(b) List as many relationships as you can think of that have different roles and levels of authority. What purposes do these roles and levels of authority serve? How would the relationship be if these roles and levels of authority did not exist? As we study Paul's admonitions to the family during the next few weeks we need to keep in mind these fundamental truths about our worth and equality in the kingdom.

(c) *Family:* Be prepared beforehand to pass out something of value to your family (i.e. their favorite snack, a pass to get out of doing a chore or to stay up late, etc). Make a big deal out of passing it out to only a certain group (only girls, only 7 year olds, only those with blue eyes, etc). Try to prompt discussion about your actions, and ultimately get your family to cry out to you that you were unfair. Act like you agree with them and take back the gift, but redistribute to another group only. This will undoubtedly bring more cries of "unfair," and give you an opportunity to teach on God's character of being impartial as you **Read Deut. 10:17**. If you like, you can add a round of bribes into your object lesson (see Deut. 10:17)!

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read John 5:26, 30, 14:34, Mark 14:36 & 1 Cor. 15:28.** What was Jesus' relationship with the Father with regard to authority? What words are used to show this relationship? What did Jesus' submission to His Father look like? Do you think there was any time that Jesus was not submitted to His Father's will?

(b) **Read John 1:1, 10:30, 1 Cor. 8:6 & John 10:30.** What do these verses reveal about Jesus' nature and equality with His Father? Would you say that either Jesus or God was inferior to the other? Would you say they were equal or unequal?

(c) Considering what you have learned about Jesus today, what would you say to someone who claimed, "I refuse to submit to anyone because I don't believe that any one person has more worth or value than another!"

(d) *Family:* Say, "Imagine that you had a servant who was to be submitted to your authority. What would you have them do? How would you treat them?" Write down the responses on your white board. Now ask, "Now picture yourself as the one who is a servant of another and you were submitted to their authority. What types of things would you hope they asked you to do? How would you hope to be treated?" Write down these responses in another column. Use these two columns to teach on submission (if they are the same but both demeaning or cruel, teach against that; if they are different ask why they made different lists; if the 2 lists are the same and the actions are gentle and loving, commend them for their good understanding). **Read John 14:34** and teach about Jesus' submission to His Father's will.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 3:18-4:1.** In v. 18, to whom are wives commanded to submit? What is different about the command to wives in v. 18 compared to the commands to children & slaves? What is the difference between "obeying" & "submitting"?

(b) If you are a woman, how does this command to submit to your husband strike you? Is it something that you do naturally? Why or why not? When you consider "submitting" to your husband (even if you are not yet married) what are your primary emotions: are you filled with a sense of peace? Protection? Freedom? Joy? Outrage? Inferiority? Rebellion?

(c) If you are a man, how does this command strike you? Are you waiting with excitement for the next time your wife (or wife to be) has to submit to your every desire or are you filled with fear & trembling because of the responsibility it brings?

(d) How does Christ's submission to His Father help both husbands & wives to better understand this command?

(e) *Family:* Print a copy of each of the following 2 images: <http://www.clipartof.com/details/clipart/12164.html> & <http://www.disneywallpaper.net/r-cinderella-52-disney-cinderella-332.htm/>. Show each picture to your family and ask them questions to begin a conversation about the differences in each relationship and what each person might have done to get the relationship to the point in the picture. **Read Eph. 5:22-33** and briefly discuss that good marriages (i.e. the Cinderella type) require both the husband & wife to act in certain ways and you will look at these ways during the next several lessons.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-24, 1 Tim 2:11, Titus 2:5 & 1 Pet. 3:1-2.** Write down what you learn from these passages.
- (b) It is clear from Scripture that a wife must submit to her husband, but why do you think God commands this (see Gen. 3:16 & 4:7 for help, and notice the word “desire” and what it means in both verses)?
- (c) What does it actually look like for a wife to submit to her husband? Does submitting mean that she can never object to her husband? Express her feelings? Think for herself? Give him wisdom? Must she give up her own desires? If not, how does she do these things and still submit to her husband?
- (d) Can you think of women in Scripture who did not submit to their husbands (Think Jezebel)? What consequences ensued?
- (e) *Family:* Have mom talk honestly about what it means to daily submit to her husband. Try to use examples that your kids will understand, and let them ask questions about what you say. Then take time to affirm your wife’s submission, to convey to your kids how her submission makes you a stronger leader, and to thank God for her desire to reflect Christ in this area. Remember that you are teaching your daughters what it means to be a wife who honors God and your sons to know what to look for in a future wife as well as how to be a husband that honors God.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-24 & Col. 3:18.** What reasons are given for a wife to submit to her husband? What effect should this have on a woman who submits? The husband to whom she submits?
- (b) How is this submission to take place (the “how to” is found in both passages). Describe what this means. What does the phrase “as is fitting” mean? Does this bring encouragement to you if you are a wife? Why or why not? If you are a husband, what does this “how to” mean to you and your reception of this submission?
- (c) Is there ever a time when a wife is allowed not to submit to her husband? Is a wife freed from submitting to her husband if he does not act like Christ? Why or why not? Husbands, how can you encourage your wife in this task of submission? How can you make it easier for her?
- (d) *Family:* Be ready with a list of 3-4 workers (or better yet pictures if you have time to gather them!) such as a soldier, a ballerina, a mailman, a veterinarian, a football player, etc. Ask, “What does this person do?” After everyone has answered for all pictures, go back through them and ask what they would think if, for example, the ballerina carried a rifle or the mailman delivered tuna or the football player carried a hammer and saw into the stadium (obviously you will use your pictures and mention things that would be out of place for that occupation). After the objections, say “each of these workers has a task that is fitting to their occupation.” Read Col. 3:18 and explain how submission is just as fitting for a wife. Then spend some time praying for your wife in her role as a wife & mother.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) If you are married, spend some time today talking about submission. Husbands, ask your wife what you can do to make her obedience to Christ in this command easier. Ask what things you do that challenge her submission to you. When she tells you, listen, don’t object, make excuses, blame shift or counter her statements. Hear what she is saying and consider it. If you are not married, spend this time in prayer for those in our congregation who will have this conversation, and for your future spouse.

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Christ-centered Families Part I: Wives