

SESSION 2: LOVE YOUR SPOUSE

Welcome and Review Last Week's Challenging Question (15 minutes):

Take 15 minutes to discuss the engaging couple question from Session #1: "Reflect on your own WHY questions and take intentional steps to engage with your children's curiosity, pointing them to the answers in the Bible."

Session #2 Teaching: Loving Your Spouse (5 minutes):

Welcome to Session #2: Loving Your Spouse. As we embark on this journey together, let's delve into the sacred covenant of marriage and explore what it means to love our spouses as Christ loved the church.

Marriage is a divine institution, designed to reflect the selfless love and sacrificial commitment exemplified by Christ's relationship with the church. In Ephesians 5:21-33, we are reminded of the profound responsibility husbands and wives bear in nurturing and cherishing each other.

For husbands, the command is clear: love your wives as Christ loved the church. This entails sacrificial love, putting the needs and well-being of your spouse above your own. Just as Christ gave himself up for the church, husbands are called to love their wives unconditionally, seeking their holiness and growth.

Wives are called to submit to their husbands, not out of inferiority, but out of reverence for Christ. Submission in this context is a reflection of the church's relationship with Christ, characterized by respect, trust, and mutual submission. It is a partnership rooted in love and mutual respect.

While these commands may seem daunting and overwhelming, they are a testament to the transformative power of love within marriage. As we strive to embody Christ-like love and mutual respect in our marriages, we create a foundation of strength and unity that withstands the trials of life.

Let us pray for unity and guidance as we navigate the complexities of marriage, seeking to honor God and each other in all that we do.

Small Group Discussion (30 minutes):

Break into small groups and discuss the following questions:

- *What does it look like for husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church? How can wives support their husbands in fulfilling this command?*
- *For wives, what does it look like (and not look like) to submit to their husbands as the church does to Christ? How can husbands create an environment that fosters mutual respect and partnership?*
- *How can couples maintain a healthy balance between prioritizing their marriage and caring for their children?*

Wrap-Up Question (10 minutes):

What practical steps can we take as couples to strengthen our marriage and prioritize our relationship with each other?

Challenging Question for Couples During the Week:

Reflect on one specific way you can show love and appreciation to your spouse this week, and commit to taking intentional action to strengthen your marriage.