



**CAN YOU RELATE?**

**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION  
GUIDE**

# Husbands and Wives

*Ephesians 5:22-33*

## To Begin

If you could be any cartoon character, who would you be?

**Read Ephesians 5:22-33, then watch Session 1.**

## Digging Deeper

Christian marriages will flourish when husbands and wives are filled with the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5, Paul tells us to view each other with an attitude of submission.

- **When you hear the word “submission,” what comes to mind?**
- **How do verses 18-21 on being filled with the Holy Spirit affect your attitude towards these verses on submission? Why is it important to think about the role of the Spirit when discussing marriage?**
- **What do you think the word “submission” means in the context of this Scripture passage?**

Paul says that Christians should submit to each other out of reverence for Christ. What does this mean? We love each other out of our respect for Christ. We see each and every person as someone Jesus died and rose again for. Because of our love for Jesus, we don't abuse each other or take advantage of other people.

- **What does it mean for a husband to give himself up for his wife, as Christ did for the church? What would it look like for a husband to live with his wife with this type of love?**

- When a husband is being a servant leader and is constantly self-sacrificing for his wife, will it make it easier or harder on wives to fulfill their role as defined in 5:22? Why?
- What does a wife do when the husband does not take spiritual leadership?
- What is God saying you about how you should love your spouse?

## Prayer & Praise Points

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# Parents and Children

*Ephesians 6:1-4*

## To Begin

What were some of your (or your kids') favourite dress-up costumes? How come?

**Read Ephesians 6:1-4, then watch Session 2.**

## Digging Deeper

In Ephesians 6:1-4, Paul address the relationship between parents and children. There are a variety of what this relationship could look like, some healthy, some not so much. Paul provides us with instruction for our families and discusses issues of honour and discipleship. Paul says that children are to be brought up “in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (6:4). While we want to be on friendly, loving terms with our children we also realize that they are depending on their parents to learn how to live their lives in a godly way.

- **Why is it difficult for us to obey our parents? Can we ever get too old to obey?**
- **What motivation, goals, and hopes do you have for your children? How would they be different for those who don't follow Jesus?**
- **Why is it important to set a Christ-like example for your children?**
- **What does the promises of “it may go well with you” and “you may have a long life in the land” mean for your children today?**
- **How does a parent find balance between giving their children the love and affection they need and the discipline and training they need?**

- What are some ways a parent might provoke his or her children to anger? How could we handle these situations differently?**
- Have you shared the message of Jesus with your children? How can we do this more regularly?**
- What is God saying you about how you should love your family?**

## Praise & Prayer Points

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# Employers and Employees

*Ephesians 6:5-9*

## To Begin

What was your first job ever? What did you like or didn't like about it?

**Read Ephesians 6:5-9, then watch Session 3.**

## Digging Deeper

In Ephesians 6:5-9 Paul gives instruction to slaves and masters, telling them to glorify Christ in their work ethic, attitude. Paul points out that how we live in the roles we find ourselves in makes a difference in the eyes of God. The question is not how fair is life is going to be, but how are we going to live a godly life in the situation we find ourselves.

- **What are some differences between slavery in Paul's context and today?**
- **What unfair obstacles do you face in your life or workplace that may be a test of your character? How are you going to handle those in a way that honors and glorifies God?**

For those of us who are the boss Paul has some words about how we treat those who are under our authority.

- **How does Paul teach masters to lead? What of these points impacted you the most?**
- **For those of you who have some level of authority in your workplace, what has been the biggest challenge to use that position in a way that honors God? Has it challenged you to see the value in people who are not as high up in position?**

In Ephesians 6:7-8, Paul tells the slaves to treat their master in in a good and honorable way. We are to work as if we are working for the Lord. In all that we do, we do it to bring glory to God.

- If you work for someone, how are you to look upon your job? If you are the boss, how are you to look upon your employees?
- How does this passage change the way we work and relate to people?
- How can we hold to these principles today in business and still succeed?
- What is God saying to you about how you should pray for your current work situation?

## Prayer & Praise Points

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# Believers and Opposition

*Ephesians 6:10-19*

## To Begin

What is the best piece of clothing you have had for years and can't seem to discard?

**Read Ephesians 6:10-19, then watch Session 4.**

## Digging Deeper

Believers are called to stand firm in the midst of the battle by God's power, with the armor of God, and to live in constant prayer. In Ephesians 6:10-19, Paul reminds us that we are in such a battle.

- **Who does Paul say we are struggling against?**
- **Where do we get our strength from? How do we receive this strength?**
- **How do you become more aware of the spiritual realities that surround us on a daily basis?**
- **What attitude should we have when we face these forces?**
- **How do you practically follow Paul's advice in putting on the armor of God?**

Prayer is important. You don't go out and fight this battle all on your own. In 6:18 Paul tells us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions. The problem is that sometimes we can become complacent in our walk with Jesus. One of the best things we can do to combat it is to be aware of the importance of each day and that God wants to use you and me to accomplish His purposes here on earth.



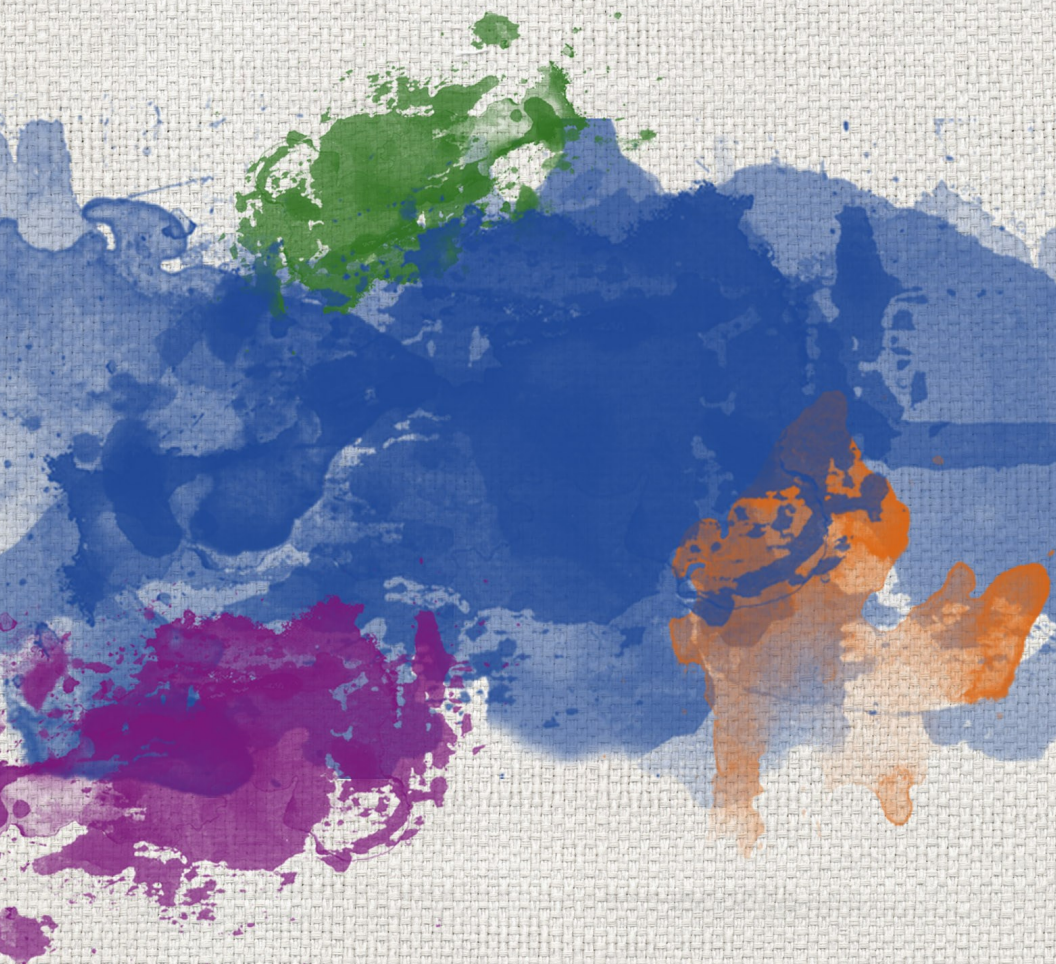
- What are some things in your life that you have grown complacent about spiritually?
- What are some things you could do to start off your day on the right foot?
- What evidence do you see of the battle in your life? Your church? Your community? The world? What would it mean for you “to stand” in these particular areas?

## Prayer & Praise Points

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