



## DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

As for Me and My House

Week 3: Husband and Wife

September 28 – October 1, 2023

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**LEADER NOTES:** **Fall trimester:** August 28 – December 10; **New Leader Trainings:** December 10 in person and December 18 on Zoom.

**Leader Podcast Now on Spotify:** You can listen to every episode of [Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less on Spotify](#).

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Serve Opportunity: Hadassah's Hope** is committed to serving women in the adult entertainment industry through the love and hope of Jesus. Thanks to God, this ministry has expanded to support the needs of women from all walks of life with diverse languages and cultures. There's a great opportunity for women who speak Spanish to volunteer on the Outreach Team. For more information, please reach out to [Shawn@hhjax.com](mailto:Shawn@hhjax.com). To sign up, visit [hadassahshopejax.com](http://hadassahshopejax.com).

**Serve Opportunity:** Sign up as a disciple group to serve in one of our 10:10 Life initiatives. [Click here to learn more and register](#).

**As For Me and My House Devotionals:** Staff-written devotionals for each topic in this series. Text HOUSE to 441122.

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: [coe22.com/readingplan](http://coe22.com/readingplan)

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**Share Wins, Praises and Prayers:** Where did you see God move this week?

**The Point:** Wives, submit to your own husband. Submission means to "make your husband feel like the man." Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

**SERMON TEXT:** *Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 3:7*

## Discussion Questions

**LEADERS:** There is no pressure to get through all the questions; we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.

- **What stood out to you in the sermon this week?**
- **What did God reveal to you in the Scriptures (*Ephesians 5:21-33*) this week, maybe for the first time?**

If you're in a mixed group, please answer these questions together:

- **Discover:** How is marriage the picture of God's covenant love between Himself and His people—The Church? *(God made a Covenant with us. He loved us when we didn't deserve it and continues to love us and pursue us every day of our lives. He loves us so much that he sacrificed His only son for us – even while we were still sinners! God wants us to love our spouses in the same way. God, in His Word, says that marriage is a Covenant, not a contract, between a man, a woman and the God who made them.)*  
**Deepen:** What does an “Abundant Marriage” look like, and how does it contribute to an abundant life? *(God created marriage. He designed it for husbands and wives to compliment (add to and improve each other) and encourage each other. God's desire is that He would use our marriage for our sanctification as we deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. Be careful: we can sometimes twist marriage into idolatry and/or selfishness.)*
- **Discover:** What does submission mean and what does it NOT mean? *(Submission is not about being inferior, passive, controlled, denying who you are or denying your God-given gifts. Submission is something both spouses do as an act of obedience to Christ - it's a voluntary choice out of reverence for Him.)*  
**Deepen:** Why and how do we submit to each other in marriage? *(We do this because of what Jesus did for us. He modeled this when He came to earth as a servant to save us. It's impossible for you to do this for your spouse unless your identity and trust is in Christ. Put Jesus in the middle of your marriage and the closer you get to Him the closer you will get to one another and the easier it will be to submit to each other.)*
- **Pastor Joby and Tonya Annis talked about how husbands need to feel respected to feel loved and women need to feel valued to feel loved. Men, can you share what that means to you? Women, can you share what that means to you?**

For the rest of the gender specific questions, we recommend that the men and women separate to discuss.

- **For the women:**  
**Discover:** What does it mean for wives to submit to their husbands? *(We need to read verse 22 in the context of verse 21 and the entire Bible. Submission is not about being inferior. It's a response to God. It's not putting the will of our husband above the will of God. It's an act of obedience to Christ, a choice, and an invitation to our husbands to lead. We are called to be a reflection of the Gospel in our husband's life.)*  
**Deepen:** Which area of submission, is the most difficult for you? What makes it so difficult?
- **What does it mean for a wife to respect her husband?** *(There are many ways to let him know you respect him. Respect his judgement. Don't treat him like a child. Give weight to things he thinks are important. Listen well. Respect his abilities and accomplishments. Call out his giftings. Respect him in communication. Respect him in public. Respect his needs to provide, for space to think, and to be wanted. Assume the best and seek to understand his heart. You have the power to let your husband know he has what it takes. When he feels respected, he feels loved. Respecting him is a reflection of your trust in God.)*
- **For the men:**  
**Discover:** What does it mean to love your wife as Christ loved the church? *(Christ's love for you is unconditional and undeserved. Christ loves you, pursued you and continues to pursue you. Christ goes first.*

*He chose you and forgave you. He chose to forgive you. Christ takes responsibility for you even when it's not His fault. Christ serves you, prays for you, fights for you, protects you and values you.)*

**Deepen:** *What are some of the practical ways you can help your wife feel loved? (1 Peter 3:7 says, "Husbands live with your wives in an understanding way." Truly listen and understand what she's saying. You don't have to "fix" her. Nourish and cherish her by studying her like you did when you were dating. Know her likes and needs and meet them. Surprise her. Hire a babysitter and plan dates & getaways. Be the initiator in prayer and repentance.)*

- **Read Ephesians 5:26-27.**

**Discover:** *What is the sanctification process? (It's how overtime, not overnight, through the Word, prayer and the Holy Spirit, we become more like Jesus. We will never be fully sanctified until we're in heaven.)*

**Deepen:** *How are you helping your wife be the best version of herself that God had in mind when he came up with the idea of her and how are you creating the kind of environment where she blossoms? (Initiate prayer and reading the Bible together. In both private and public, encourage her, speak well of her and let her know you value her.)*

## ACTION STEP

**A Disciple...Loves All People, Discovers Identity in Jesus, Deepens Relationship with Jesus**

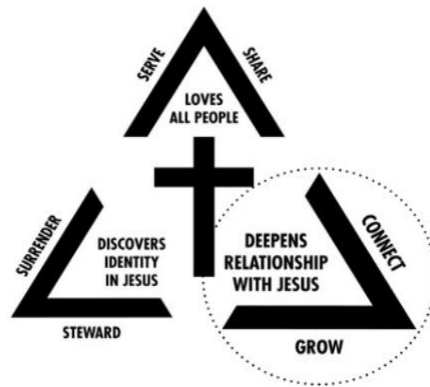
**Husbands, plan one thing you can do this week to show your wife how much you value her.**

**Wives, plan one thing you can do this week to show your husband how much you respect him.**

- **RightNow Media:** Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to [coe22.com/rightnowmedia](http://coe22.com/rightnowmedia) or text "RightNow" to 441122.

*(Note: You'll need to login or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)*

- Details on the 10:10 Life are available at [coe22.com/1010life](http://coe22.com/1010life).



Go to [coe22.com/resources/discipleship-journey/](http://coe22.com/resources/discipleship-journey/) and click "Download Tool" to download or print a discipleship journey tool with questions for you to ask yourself and others. Please share the link and directions with others in your group.