

Dig Deeper @Home – Better Together

Complement to lesson on 02/27/22 – “Standing Together”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?
2. If you had to be on a gameshow, which would you choose?

MEMORIZE – Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

READ – Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read these passages?
 - a. What sticks out to you?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
 - c. Identify 10 questions you have about these verses
Example question: Were Christians in Ephesus actively walking as Gentiles?
 - d. What is the passage revealing about God? About humanity?
In light of these, what might God be calling you to do?
2. In verse 21, Paul tells us to “submit to one another *out of reverence for Christ.*”
 - a. Identify all the phrases that Paul uses to repeat this command from 5:22 – 6:9.
 - b. What difference does this make in each relationship that he refers to?
 - c. In which relationships is the Holy Spirit telling you to grow in submitting out of reverence to Christ?
3. Look at 5:27 again and consider what Jesus has done for the church. How is the church described in these verses? Which adjective are you most drawn to? Which one do you have the hardest time believing? Take time to pray to see the church in these same ways.

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Out of Reverence to Christ

“Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ.”

As believers, we are called to submit ... first and foremost to Jesus Christ as King, but also, as this verse points out, to one another. This submitting to one another is how we actually live out our reverence to our King. Paul then lists relationships where we might struggle to submit ... husbands and wives, children and parents, slaves/masters (for this you can think employee/employer, citizen/government).

In what relationship are you currently struggling to submit? After you identify the relationship, resolve to respond with Christ revering submission in the weeks ahead. Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you. Share your struggle with a trusted friend/mentor who can support you in this.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

- Great are You Lord - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpb02shcAis>
- Spirit of the Living God - <https://youtu.be/ZPZrxZgQjrg>
- I Surrender All - <https://youtu.be/kfQm6o4V1SI>
- Breathe On Me, Breath of God – Mennonite Hymnal #216

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

May the Lord who gave us his Spirit to fill us and empower us now go with us. May he enable us to engage the relationships with others where we live, work and play out of reverence to Jesus, our King. May he show us what the Lord’s will is and empower us to live into His plan.