



Small Group Guide: Living Out Faith in Our Homes

Based on Colossians 3:18-21

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: What's one family tradition or household routine that has shaped who you are today?

Sermon Summary (5 minutes)

This week's message challenged us to consider that we can build deep roots of faith and pursue Christ diligently, yet undermine it all by how we live in our homes. Paul gives specific instructions to wives, husbands, children, and fathers—not as cultural preferences, but as acts of worship that point others to Christ. Our family relationships are opportunities to glorify God and demonstrate the gospel.

Key Scripture

Colossians 3:18-21

"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15 minutes)

1. **What stood out to you most from this sermon? What made you uncomfortable or challenged your thinking?**
2. **The sermon emphasized that submission isn't about inferiority but about order and worship. How does understanding submission as an "act of worship to Christ" change how you view these instructions?**
3. **Read Ephesians 5:21-33 together. How does Paul's command for husbands to love like Christ loved the church set the context for mutual sacrifice in marriage?**

Going Deeper (20 minutes)

4. **For Wives/Women:** The sermon said wives have an "incredible superpower" to help their husbands see Jesus through their conduct, not their words. What does this look like practically? What makes this challenging in our culture?
5. **For Husbands/Men:** Paul commands husbands to love sacrificially, extravagantly, and limitlessly—like Christ. The sermon mentioned "daily dying" versus heroic moments. What are practical examples of daily dying to self in marriage?
6. **For Parents:** How can we "bring children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" without provoking them to discouragement? What's the difference between punishment and discipline?
7. **For Everyone:** The sermon emphasized that children learn to obey God by learning to obey their parents. How does authority in the home prepare us for living under God's authority?

Personal Application (15 minutes)

8. **The sermon closed with this question: "What's a place you could offer an act of worship to Christ this week through your family relationships?" How would you answer that?**
9. **Peter wrote that husbands treating their wives poorly can hinder their prayers (1 Peter 3:7). How does this truth challenge us to take our home life seriously as spiritual warfare?**
10. **Where might you be "tearing down the tower" you're building in your faith by how you act at home? What needs to change?**

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Our home life can undermine or strengthen our faith journey**—we cannot separate our spiritual growth from how we treat our family.
- ✓ **Biblical submission is not about inferiority but about order and worship**—it applies to all believers in different contexts (to government, employers, and in marriage).
- ✓ **Husbands are called to love sacrificially like Christ**—extravagantly, sacrificially, and without limits, dying daily to self.
- ✓ **Children honor God by honoring authority**—obedience to parents is an act of worship and prepares them to follow God.
- ✓ **Parents must actively teach and not provoke**—discipline with consistency and love, not anger or unrealistic expectations.
- ✓ **All family roles are responses to Christ, not reactions to others**—our motivation is worship, not performance or obligation.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE specific action in your family relationships as an act of worship to Christ:

For Wives:

- Identify one area where you can demonstrate respect or support to your husband without words
- Pray specifically for your husband's spiritual leadership

For Husbands:

- Practice "daily dying"—identify one preference or desire you'll lay down this week to serve your wife
- Ask your wife: "How can I love you better this week?"

For Children/Young Adults:

- Respond to a parental request with immediate obedience and a good attitude—as worship to Christ
- Thank your parents for one specific way they've pointed you toward Jesus

For Parents:

- Set one clear expectation with your child and consistently follow through

- Spend intentional time teaching your child something about Jesus this week
- Apologize to your child if you've provoked them unfairly

For Singles:

- Consider how you're preparing now for future marriage or how you honor authority in your current relationships
- Invest in a younger person's life, demonstrating Christ-like love and sacrifice

Reflection Questions for Journaling

- How does my behavior at home reflect or contradict my public faith?
- What "legitimate reasons" do I use to avoid obeying God's instructions for my family role?
- If someone only saw how I acted at home, would they see Jesus?
- What heart posture needs to change for me to view my family relationships as worship?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

- Confess where we've torn down what God is building in our faith through our home life
- Ask for grace to see family relationships as acts of worship
- Pray for specific family members and situations shared in the group
- Request strength to love sacrificially like Christ this week

Looking Ahead

Next week we'll continue in Colossians 3, exploring additional household instructions and how the gospel transforms all our relationships—including in the workplace.

Preparation: Read Colossians 3:22-4:1 and consider how your work life reflects your faith in Christ.

Additional Resources

- **Book Recommendation:** *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas - "What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?"
- **For Parents:** *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp
- **For Deeper Study:** Ephesians 5:21-6:9 (parallel passage with more detail)