

Small Group Homework

For the week of February 26, 2017

GETTING STARTED

Pastor Aaron made reference to Dr. Chapman's *The Five Love Languages*. Do you think you give and receive love primarily through: ___ Words of Affirmation, ___ Acts of Service, ___ Receiving Gifts, ___ Quality Time, or ___ Physical Touch? (You can take a free online inventory if you want to learn more at www.5lovelanguages.com.)

LOOKING BACK

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?

MY STORY

1. Were you raised in a home with two parents, by a single parent, or some other arrangement?
2. What about siblings?
3. How do you think the setup of your family contributed to who you are today?

DIGGING DEEPER

Acts of Kindness: Genesis 24:17-20 (NLT) ¹⁷ Running over to her, the servant said, "Please give me a little drink of water from your jug." ¹⁸ "Yes, my lord," she answered, "have a drink." And she quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough to drink." ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw water for all his camels.

1. It was culturally polite to offer water to a stranger. Rebekah went above and beyond when she offered to draw water for Eliezer's camels as well. What do good manners communicate about a person's character?
2. What are a few simple, yet unexpected steps you can take to serve others in daily life?

Instructions for Wives: Ephesians 5:21-24 (NLT) ²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

1. How can these instructions be abused?

2. How can outright rejection of these instructions cause problems?

Instructions for Husbands: Ephesians 5:25-29 (NLT) ²⁵ **For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.**

1. What are some ways a husband can “give up his life” for his wife?
2. What messages do we hear about marriage today that are in conflict with Paul’s instructions for wives and husbands?
3. What would a marriage look like where these instructions are applied well?

The Advantage of Singleness: 1 Corinthians 7:32-34 (NLT) ³² **I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord’s work and thinking how to please him. ³³ But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. ³⁴ His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband.**

1. In the rest of 1 Corinthians 7, Paul talks about how some people should definitely be married, but there are real advantages for people who can remain single and celibate. How does our culture put pressure on people to be married?
2. How does our culture put pressure on people to be unmarried but also sexually active?
3. What does it mean to you that we--whether married or single--are to “seek God’s will in order to love others well”?

SERVICE PROJECT AND SOCIAL: Be sure to make a plan for your group’s service project and social this term!

PRAYERS: