

LEAD LIKE JESUS

Small Group discussion guide

Week # 3 February 23 & 24, "Who is the Head?"
Pastor Bruce Humphrey

Matthew 20:17-23 ¹⁷ Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" ²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Ephesians 5:21-28 ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Notes and Thoughts ...

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Facilitator Guide

Group Leadership Tips...

Now that the group has been meeting for three weeks consecutively, you might begin to notice some people talk more than others. One of the key roles of a facilitator is to give everyone in the group a chance to speak and share their thoughts and ideas. Don't be afraid of some silent time to allow those who process internally, or might be more introverted, to think through what they want to say. There is no need to rush from question to question.

Continue to work at cultivating trust, honesty, respect, and sincerity. Your group will benefit and it will be a more rewarding, helpful, and spiritually uplifting time if people are aloud to share openly.

This week might be a good time to pass on leadership of facilitation if you have not already done so. Or perhaps your group is ready to divide responsibility for who leads the study time and who leads prayer time. Your group has potential for people to experience leadership gifts they didn't know God has given them.

Things to Consider...

You may want to begin planting seeds for doing some mission/ ministry together. Two opportunities to consider:

- Over March 27-30, our church is sponsoring a home building mission trip to Mexico with Amor ministries. This would be a great opportunity for your small group to participate in something together.
- On April 26th and 27th, there will be no worship gatherings at RBCPC. We are together having a Service Weekend. Your group might consider participating in something together. Perhaps this would be an opportunity to revisit your group's Kingdom Assignment, or you could take something on as a common mission you support.

Encouraging note!

We are praising God...

- we passed out over 1,500 copies of the book,
- many families are sharing 1 book,
- at least 5 new small groups at RBCPC started for this series,
- in addition, 4 new community groups were started, that we know of...
- over 40 additional people joined existing groups or re-joined old ones,
- we have one church body growing in its understanding, passion, interest, and servant leadership of a God who loves us so much!

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START IT:

- [New groups] Who is your model for leadership? (No two people can say the same person.)
- What are some of the most important values in your life?
- Have you ever resisted leadership? Share a story.

STUDY IT:

- Read the Matthew passage aloud. What observations can be made about Jesus' leadership in connection to his relationship with the Father?
- Read the Ephesians passage aloud. What observations can be made about leadership within families?
- Both Scripture passages touch on the issue of submission. How do you understand the relationship between leading and serving? (see *Lead Like Jesus*, pg 84)

Teaching Section [Read aloud] What does "mutual submission in love" mean for us?

Ephesians 5:22-23 have been among the most misquoted verses in the Bible. "Wives, submit to your husbands.... For the husband is the head of the wife...." This is a sad mistranslation. In the original language, the Apostle Paul doesn't have any verb in verse 21. It literally reads, "Wives to your husbands." We have to go searching for a verb in order to make sense of this line in the Bible. Thus, we pull the verb from the previous sentence and assume the verb is "submit." Now, no sooner do we grab that verb from the previous sentence than we discover why he left the verb out of this line. The previous sentence gives God's teaching regarding a healthy, functional family. That verse sets the tone for the whole paragraph. It reads, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

In other words the letter to the Ephesians is giving guidance about how parents serve each other and their families in servant-leadership. Husbands and wives are to be mutually submissive. The husband is to submit to his wife in love. The wife is to submit to her husband in love. If one is better at the vision piece for the family, the other can head up the implementation piece. Neither is better or worse. They are both needed for the family to be successful.

- Bruce Humphrey, Feb. 23 & 24

- Are there any principles from this teaching that are applicable in other relationships besides marriage?

LIVE IT:

- How and to whom do you live in submission? How are you also influential to that person?
- What act of humble servant leadership could you do this week?
- As a family, write (or take time to revisit) your family's vision statement together, or establish your family's values. (see *LLJ*, pg. 87-96). Be prepared to share it with the group next week.

PRAY IT:

- **Application:** Pray for God's help in applying what you have learned.
- **Personal requests:** Write requests on scrap paper, crumple them, and throw them until they are mixed up. Then everyone take one home and pray through the week.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for the many volunteers who have leadership roles in the lives of children at RBCPC.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray for the Agabus ministry support pastors in Egypt.