

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDELINES: Tips for great conversation

- We aren't here to teach/fix each other, but to share our experiences.
- Show respect by listening to one another, asking clarifying questions.
- If you're quick to share, allow space and time for others to speak up.
- If you're slow to speak, your experience is valuable so please share.

INTRO

Invite everyone to introduce themselves and then read the Bible verses.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of the message and Scripture was most encouraging, and which part is most challenging?
2. What did You notice about God, and what did you notice about yourself as well as other people?

GOSPEL EXCHANGE (REDEMPTIVE WORK)

Jesus asks us to give Him our burdens (Matthew 11:28-29), whatever they may be (a lie we have believed about God or ourselves, our hurt or negative emotions, or even our concerns for loved ones), so He can carry them for us, giving us His peace (His completeness) in exchange.

What do you want to exchange with Jesus today?

What is the burden? "Lord Jesus, I give you my..."

What's His gift? "Lord Jesus, I receive your..."

ACTION QUESTIONS

1. What is one step of obedience you can take this week, based on what you've discovered today? *(NOTE – Consider prayerfully asking God to answer this question for you, taking 30-45 seconds to listen in silence, writing what you heard. If nothing comes clear, keep praying this week.)*
2. During the coming week, who can you share what you learned today? *(NOTE – Consider repeating the same step with this question as the previous question.)*

**Sermon Study - Conversation Guide**

February 4, 2024

“Submitting is Not What You Think”

Ephesians 5:21-27

This guide is a discipleship tool for personal reflection, family conversations, for home groups, and for Table Talk on Sundays @10:40 am and 12:15 pm on the Lowell Patio

Coastal Community Church
mycoastal.org

NOTES: Submitting is Not What You Think (Eph. 5:21-27)
Pastor Andy Rock

Review: This is the foundation: We love like God loves us.

5:1 “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.”

The boss who dictates behavior because ‘they are the boss ’will create a horrible working environment. The most effective form of leadership is one who invests in their people, building them up, training them, showing them their significance and impact, helping them achieve their dreams. That leader creates a team which can accomplish anything.

5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

To submit is to put another first, to lift another up, to literally to come under another person, for their benefit. To submit to another is to yield your preferences for theirs, to accept their needs as your first priority. It’s to say and live this out, “I’m working for your best. I’m working for your benefit. I’m putting you first.” It’s not ignoring your needs, silencing your voice, or mindlessly following another person’s commands. It’s how we love one another well. Submitting to a person who loves you is easy. Of course, you’re going to work for their best because they’re working for your best. This is why falling in love, or the love between friends or with your kids, is so amazing and effortless.

5:22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

Too often women have been taught that ‘submit’ means to be quiet and obey orders without question. That’s a lie. Women have been taught that ‘submit’ means men get to do anything they want, and women have to accept it. That’s a lie. God never asks us to submit to abusive people. Remember what Paul tells us to do with fools just a few verses before? We hand them over to their consequences. With evil people? We put up firm boundaries. With people who are mistreating and misleading us? We don’t yoke ourselves, or connect ourselves, to these people. *So, what does it truly look like for a wife to submit to her husband?*

5:23 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.

How did Jesus lead and love the church? Jesus lays down His life for us. Jesus is faithful when we are not. Jesus is kind, compassionate,

forgiving. He leads not by commanding us with threats, not by forcing our behavior under duress, but by wooing us with faithful love, by choosing to put us first no matter what. Husbands, you are not the Savior of your wife. Jesus is. Husbands, you are not the Savior of your family. Jesus is. Husbands, you are not your own Savior. Jesus is.

5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Submitting to each other is not something we do out of fear, to avoid being punished. If that’s submission to us, the enemy has stolen more from us than we can ever imagine. What’s been stolen? Our willingness to trust God and submit to Him out of love. *Where do you struggle to trust God the most? What’s been stolen that you need to take back?*

Exchange Work Prayer: Jesus, I’m exhausted from not trusting Your love and care for me. I take You back as my Savior. I take You back as my Provider. I take you back, Heavenly Father, as my Protector, my Healer, the One who is working for my best. I take back my confidence and hope in You. I take back my love for You. I submit all of me to You Jesus.

If you’re trusting and submitting to Jesus, all the love Jesus is pouring into you will flow from you. You will love like Jesus loves, and I will be glad to submit to you. Wives will be delighted to love, support, and follow a husband whose heart is humble enough to listen to Jesus and put his wife first. It won’t even be a discussion. It will be a delight.

5:25 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.

Husbands, put your wives first, just as Jesus put you first. Just as Jesus gave Himself for your sake, give yourself to her for her sake. Just as Jesus cleanses us in baptism, with your gentle touch, show your wife she is safe, forgiven, cherished and adored. Speak the hope and truth of the Gospel over her. Just as Jesus is proud of us, presenting us as radiant and beautiful, husbands, with your kind and gentle words, show your wife she is worthy, beautiful, and beloved. Every time your wife wants to tear herself down, build her up. Every time she doubts how amazing she is, show her how incredible she is by words and actions.

Husbands, your role as head of the household isn’t to dictate, but to initiate. Do you feel like you know the difference between dictating and initiating?