

Lead Like Jesus: At Home

Sermon Based Small Groups

Introductions (pick one or two):

- 1) What is one of your best memories of your parents growing up?
- 2) What is your favorite room in your home?
- 3) What is one family vacation that you will always remember?

Getting into the Word:

The book of Ephesians is a letter that Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. Paul wrote this letter from prison (59-61 AD) to teach the believers about the church. The book of Ephesians is commonly called the "church book". The first half of this letter tells the believers what the church is. Lets look at the second half of the letter and see what Paul says about being a member in the church, what that involves, and how being a believer effects marriage and how we raise our children.

Scripture Questions:

In your discussion of the text and the sermon, please use the questions that are most helpful for you to better understand the core teaching of the text.

Read Ephesians 5: 21- 6: 4:

What was Paul's intent in writing these things to the believers in Ephesus?

How does it fit into the book of Ephesians as a whole?

Why do you think Paul tells the believers how to act at home?

What does this have to do with the Gospel Message?

What does godly submission look like in the home?

How has this concept been perverted by the American culture?

What does it look like to lead in the home according to these passages?

According to the text, how does a marriage symbolize Christ's love for the church?

How is the Gospel Message intertwined in marriage according to this text?

How is this view of marriage different then the one in our culture?

How does this passage show that living together is not a good "test" for marriage?

Why do you think more couples are living together before marriage today?

What do they hope to accomplish by this act?

What is the purpose for families and/or marriage as seen in the text?

How are the believers to raise their children?

What does it look like "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"?

Children are instructed to honor their parents. Why is this best for parents **and** children?

How is the way we live our faith at home and in our private life important?

What is important about living out your faith in your daily life and relationships?

What is the reason the church should live in this matter?

Why is it important for our households to be organized well?

What is God saying in this text?

Discussion Questions:

What part of the sermon really made you think?

How have you seen this passage play out in your (or another person's) marriage?

What does it look like to "preach the Gospel" to your spouse/children/extended family?

What is one way that you live out your faith in your home?

How did your parents influence your faith?

What is the influence of your spouse on your faith?

What does it look like in this stage of your life to organize your household to preach the Gospel Message?

What does submission in your household look like today?

What would you, as a husband, have to change to love your wife like Christ loves the church?

How does someone go about raising kids in the faith?

How is the way we live in our homes important today?

Prayer:

Pray for the families at Lutheran Church of the Cross, including those in your group.

For Further Study:

Lead Like Jesus, Ken Blanchard

Spiritual Leadership, J. Oswald Sanders

Love and Respect, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Raising Modern Day Knights, Robert Lewis

The Servant, James Hunter

Leadership Summit (DVD), Bill Hybels, Willow Creek Community Church

Developing the Leader within You, John Maxwell