

## INTRODUCTION

One of the key characteristics of a Christ-follower is selflessness. This plays out in all relationships, including marriage. What does it look like to complete, rather than compete?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think of someone who truly serves others, what words or qualities describe them?
2. Read Philippians 2:1-8. What does it mean to '*look out for...the interests of others*' (NASB)? Do you find this difficult to do?
3. Is Paul saying we should have no interest for ourselves?
4. Read John 15:13 and 17, and Ephesians 5:1-2. What are we commanded to do? Why is this sometimes challenging?
5. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What does it mean to be '*subject to one another in the fear of Christ*'? What does this look like?
6. When you think of the words 'subject' or 'submit, what comes to mind? Do you think our human interpretation of these words matches what God intended? Why or why not?
7. What does it look like for a wife to submit to her husband as she does to God?
8. How can husbands love their wives like Christ loved the church?
9. Why does Paul tell women to submit and men to love? Do you think gender differences play into these different instructions?
10. Re-read Ephesians 5:33 and discuss how love and respect strengthen marriages.

## **APPLICATION**

This week, meditate on Ephesians 5:21:

*And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. (NASB)*  
*Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another. (MSG)*  
*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (NIV)*

Where are you in your relationships based on this verse? Make an effort to give up your needs and wants for others. Next week, share with your group how this went.

## **SCRIPTURE**

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

Philippians 2: 3-8 (NASB)