

COMMUNITY GROUP

DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 25-26

WELCOME/ OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE: We are here as a group to make and multiply disciples.

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

RELATIONAL WARMUP: What is one moment from your week when you felt loved or cared for?

SET THE STAGE: Ephesians 5 starts with an invitation to be imitators of God, as beloved children (5:1). What does it mean to be God's beloved child? To be beloved is to know: *I am known. I am wanted. I am chosen. I am understood. I am deeply and completely loved.* Phrases like these can help us to understand God's love personally. Are you routinely noticing and receiving God's love for you? This is the foundation for loving others.

READ THE PASSAGE: Ephesians 5:22-33

HEAD QUESTIONS: Review the context of this passage (Ephesians 5:1-21).
What do you notice that sets the stage for a conversation about marriage?

HEART QUESTIONS: Paul describes love as self-giving, modeled by Christ.
Where do you see glimpses of the Spirit growing Christ-like, self-giving love in you?
Where do you notice a gap between the love you intend and the love you actually give?
Love can also be shown through submitting (subjecting one's self) and respecting.
In what ways do you see Jesus redefining power as love that serves?
Where might you be invited to reflect that kind of posture in your everyday relationships?

HANDS QUESTIONS: What might it look like to take one small step toward self-giving love this week?
What practices or rhythms (prayer, honesty, confession, service) could help you grow into that kind of love over time?

TAKEAWAY

CLOSING PRAYER