



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 1 WEEK 7

22 March 2018

Life in the family

‘For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light.’

Ephesians 5:8 (NIV)

Icebreaker

In addition to love, what do you think is needed to create the perfect home atmosphere?

Introduction

Christianity begins by understanding God’s love. As we receive and walk in God’s love, we’re able to 'switch on' our Christianity by applying our faith to everyday living. We receive God’s love and are invited to respond to His love by how we live, and how we treat others. Ephesians 5:3-13 shows us that morality is one of our responses to God’s love. Verses 15-20 shows us that wisdom is another response, Paul shows us a further response – submission - in Ephesians 5:21-24. Read through Ephesians 5:1-24 as a group.

Discussion

The original readers of Ephesians would all have lived by a household code. This code was the accepted way of living and relating to others within society. These household codes were almost always discriminatory towards women. But, there is no discrimination in the disciple’s quest or in the household of God.

- Paul shows us that submission is God’s idea, and that Jesus is our reference point for what submission should look like (verse 21). What has been your reference point for submission?

Morality, wisdom, and submission are essential for the disciple’s quest. We respond to God’s love by living well and loving others.

- Read Ephesians 6:1-9, what do you notice about submission in God’s household?
- Is there an opportunity this week to practically apply morality, wisdom, and submission as a response to God’s love?

Prayer

- Thank the Lord that we have received His love and that His love invites us to respond to Him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us become disciples who are moral, wise, and who live in submission to one another, just as Christ did.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to make us aware of soul shaping opportunities that will instill in us God's 'household conduct'.