



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Five Observations About Marriage from Ephesians 5”

Preached by Daniel and Lisa Groethe

November 16th, 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Daniel and Lisa Groethe taught from Ephesians 5 about marriage and relationships in the church. They emphasized that this passage is not just about marriage but about being filled with the Holy Spirit and learning to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Their sermon highlighted five observations: the text is about more than marriage; it ignited a cultural revolution by calling both spouses to mutual submission; it introduces us to Jesus-led leadership, or “servant-leadership”; unity is more powerful than any position of power; and marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. Daniel and Lisa shared examples of how mutual submission and servant

leadership work, emphasizing that both men and women have unique gifts that complement each other when they work together.

Key Passages

- Ephesians 5:18-21
- Ephesians 5:22-25
- Ephesians 5:28-33
- Psalm 133:1-3
- Genesis 2:24

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning with open hearts and minds. We ask that You speak to us through Your Word, and help us be receptive to what You want to teach us about relationships, marriage, and living in unity with one another. Holy Spirit, we invite You to move among us and transform us as we study together. Help us to set aside our preconceptions, and let us be willing to learn and grow. We pray that our time together would draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, we pray, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What's one household chore or responsibility that you're surprisingly good at, or one that you absolutely cannot stand doing?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. What does it mean practically to 'submit to one another out of reverence for Christ' in our daily relationships, whether married or single?
2. How does Jesus' model of servant leadership challenge traditional views of authority and headship in relationships?
3. The sermon mentioned that both men and women have unique gifts. How can we celebrate these differences while maintaining equality and mutual respect?
4. What are some ways that couples or friends can regularly check in with each other to keep learning and growing together, like Jim and Nancy House did after 40+ years of marriage?

5. What does it look like practically to choose unity over being right in an argument or disagreement?
6. How can single people apply the principles of mutual submission and servant leadership in their relationships and community involvement?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life

This week, identify one relationship in your life where you can practice 'hupo tasso' - arranging your strength underneath someone else to lift them up. Whether it's your spouse, a friend, family member, or someone in your church community, look for a specific way to serve them or meet a need they have. Ask them directly: 'What's one thing I could do this week that would be a blessing to you?' Then follow through on their answer.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- Ephesians 5 is primarily about being filled with the Holy Spirit, not just marriage rules - it affects all our relationships.
- Mutual submission means both people in a relationship arrange their lives to serve and strengthen each other.

- Jesus-style leadership is servant leadership that lifts others up rather than dominating them.
- Unity is more powerful than fighting for positions of power - God commands His blessing where there is unity.
- Marriage is meant to be a picture of Christ's relationship with the church - characterized by sacrificial love and mutual care.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us what true leadership and love look like through Your example. Help us to be people who submit to one another out of reverence for You, whether we are married or single. Give us the courage to arrange our lives underneath others to lift them up, just as You laid down Your life for us. Help us to choose unity over being right, and to use our unique gifts to strengthen our relationships and community. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that our relationships would reflect Your love and grace to the world around us. Transform our hearts to be more like Yours. In Your precious name we pray, **Amen**.