



“The Art of Mutual Respect ” Small Group Discussion Guide

This discussion guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the concepts presented in the message on "The Art of Mutual Respect" from Ephesians. We'll explore marriage, family, and workplace relationships through the lens of mutual respect and submission to one another.

Opening Prayer:

Begin your time together with a short prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and reveal insights into how you can implement mutual respect in your relationships.

Discussion Questions

1. Mutual Submission (Ephesians 5:21)

- ****Read****: Ephesians 5:21 - “Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
- ****Discuss****: What does "mutual submission" mean to you? How can viewing submission as a voluntary, cooperative act change your perspective on relationships?
- ****Personal Reflection****: Can you think of a time when mutual submission transformed a difficult situation in your life or relationship?

2. The Marriage Relationship (Ephesians 5:22-33)

- ****Read****: Ephesians 5:22-33.
- ****Discuss****: How is the concept of submission portrayed differently in today's culture compared to biblical teachings in this passage?
- ****Explore****: Todd and Cynthia discussed the importance of Christ being the head of the home. What practical steps can couples take to ensure Christ is central in their marriage?

3. Parenting and Family Relationships (Ephesians 6:1-4)

- ****Read****: Ephesians 6:1-4.
- ****Discuss****: Cynthia mentioned that children learn more from what they see than from what they are told. How can parents model respect and honor to their children?
- ****Apply****: How can teens or young adults honor their parents while also establishing their own identities? Share personal experiences if comfortable.



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4. Workplace Relationships (Ephesians 6:5-9)

- **Read**: Ephesians 6:5-9.
- **Discuss**: What does mutual respect look like in the workplace? How can both employees and employers demonstrate this?
- **Reflect**: If you have experienced a lack of respect in a workplace setting, how could mutual submission have changed that experience?

***5. Challenges to Mutual Respect**

- **Explore**: Todd shared his experiences of chaos in marriage when Christ was not the head of their home. Have there been moments in your life where you found it difficult to extend mutual respect?
- **Discuss**: How can understanding our own emotional responses—and how they affect others — lead to healthier relationships?

Conclusion

As you wrap up your discussion, encourage each participant to reflect on one specific relationship they would like to improve through the principles of mutual respect and submission discussed today.

Closing Prayer

Invite someone in the group to pray, asking for God’s help in implementing these lessons in daily lives and relationships.