

Small Group Study Guide- Ephesians 5:29-32
Walk in Love Part Eight

When I have learnt to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now.

-CS Lewis

1) The Plan of Marriage: Leave and Cleave. (Eph. 5:29-31)

- Take time as a group to define and discuss “mutual submission” within the church body and in marriage.
- In the marriage covenant, discuss the concepts of “leave” and “cleave.” Give examples of both. Share experiences where “leave and cleave” has been experienced in both good and bad ways. Discuss the importance of understanding and living out the “leave and cleave” principle. (Matthew 19:4-6)
- How can a married couple create healthy boundaries for “leave and cleave” to work? How can parents respect marriage boundaries to be a blessing and not a burden?

2) The Picture of Marriage: Model the Profound Mystery of Christ and the Church. (Eph. 5:32-33)

- How does Paul define “love and respect” in a marriage? If married, how has this worked in your relationships?
- How did Christ model the “leave and cleave” principle? (John 6:38-40 and John 3:28-30)
- According to Christ’s model define and discuss:
 - *Beautiful submission:*
 - *Beautiful sacrifice:*
- How can we learn from Christ’s submission and sacrifice and apply it to our personal relationship with Him as well as marriage covenant? (Luke 22:41-44)

Close by taking some time to pray for marriage in America and that Christ’s bride will model marriage as a church and as couples in covenant.