

**Encounter these verses today:**  
circle words that you identify with,  
underline phrases or sentences you'd  
like to remember, write questions about  
the passage out to the side ...



**Ephesians 5:21-33** | *Instructions for Christian Households*

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.



What words best describe **your** family experience?

Personal notes and reflections from today ...

My personal **reflections** on today's challenge ...



# Digging Deeper

[Engage the message throughout the week]

## Monday: 9.19.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Church Board

**Passage:** Deuteronomy 6

**Insight:** *Today's passage is the foundation of Jewish parenting and reminds us that passing down our faith rests on us as parents. We are also children who need to listen to our parents and learn from their wisdom.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*How does this tie in to our conversation Sunday about the family?*

*Why does it seem important to follow God's ways?*

*What does this tell us about the roll God's Word should have in our life?*

## Tuesday: 9.20.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Pastors and Staff

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:1-21

**Insight:** *These words were written by the Apostle Paul to a church in Ephesus. This church has struggled understanding the supremacy of God in their daily lives. Paul knew that getting the foundation of the family in order would help them understand God's roll in their lives.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Who is our model for living life in general?*

*How can we imitate God daily?*

*Why do you think these warnings (v 3-4) made the list?*

## Wednesday: 9.21.2011

**Prayer Focus:** A Friend who needs loved on today!

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:22 - 6:9

**Insight:** *Finishing this powerful chapter today reminds us of our time on Sunday and prepares for discussion this evening (come to church for Wednesday Night Boost - 6:30-8PM).*

**Questions for consideration:**

*List out the characteristics for each person listed.*

*Rate yourself? How do you measure up to this list?*

*How would your life be better/worse if we lived by these standards?*

## Thursday: 9.22.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Your Family

**Passage:** 1 Peter 2:17 - 3:12

**Insight:** *Our author today Peter, likely the same one that walked with Jesus and began the church. He restates much of what Paul had written to the Ephesian church would tells us that many of these characteristics were widely accepted in the church. But also it tells us that the church needed reminded on how to live within the home. We are no different ... we need help and constant reminders of God's plan for the home.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Do you see any differences in this list from Ephesians?*

*What/who is our model for submission?*

*What challenges exist in your life to live a life in harmony with others (especially those in your family/household)?*

## Friday: 9.23.2011

**Prayer Focus:** Our church worship services (9/25)

**Passage:** Ephesians 6:10-18

**Insight:** *Today's passage helps us prepare for our conversation on Sunday. Paul uses a powerful illustration of dressing for battle to show how we should be ready for spiritual battle. Sunday, we will discuss the importance of commitment and promises within the family structure.*

**Questions for consideration:**

*Notice how many times Paul tells us to "stand firm."*

*Why do you think he tells us to stand when we are dressed for battle?*

*How are we called to respond when our family is under attack?*

*Whose strength do we need to rely on?*