

Leader's Guide



Relational Awareness ~ Lesson 2 ~ Mutual Submission

Read all parts of the lesson (in black print) aloud in the group. Don't read answers in red unless there are no other appropriate answers given by group members. Elicit as much discussion as possible, depending on your time restrictions. Start with question numbers circled in red.

In our last lesson we discussed that love is better than spiritual gifts or great works. So maybe we should learn the most about (and try hardest to be) love. We also learned that the epidemic of domestic abuse or malevolent control affects 1 in 4 families in our community. Last week you were challenged to:

- 1) pray for God to replace a negative quality with a positive one;
 - 2) to examine the kindness level of the relationships in your home and think of how to improve them;
 - 3) to do one thing throughout the week to practice the attributes of love
- Share how this went.

Show 10-minute testimony

Today we will look at God's idea of submission. We will see how we are instructed to submit to each other. We will explore what that means for a husband and wife. We will look at the difference between a mutual relationship and an abusive relationship.

1. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What do you think it means to submit to each other (verse 21)? *Serve each other; give ourselves to each other by communicating; respect the needs and wishes of the other person*

The Greek root word used here for submit is *hupotassó*. In non-military use, it was commonly used to mean "a voluntary attitude of cooperating" or "attach."

2. Read verse 25. How are husbands instructed to submit to their wives?
Love her as Christ loved the church by dying for her
3. When husbands are told to love their wives, the Greek word for love is agape (sacrificial, selfless).
4. Read 1 John 3:16. How do we know what love is?
Jesus laid down His life for us. We ought to lay down our lives for each other.

5. A husband submits to his wife by sacrificing (dying to himself) for her. What are some practical ways for him to do that?

Listen to her without trying to fix her; do things to bless her even though it is an inconvenience for him; ask for her opinions and receive her input as equally valuable as his own

6. According to verse 33, how are wives instructed to submit to their husbands?
respect him

- 7) A wife submits by respecting her husband. She does this by offering herself as a willing partner. She must honor her husband as much as she honors any other person created in the image of God. (Familiarity breeds contempt.) This type of respect is not earned. Just being a creation of God is reason enough to be respected and valued. In what ways can the wife show respect for her husband?

choosing to not complain or argue with her husband; give words of appreciation, affirmation, & sincere compliments; attitude of cooperation, don't try to control him

Acts 5:29 instructs us to obey God rather than men. Husbands are not told to demand submission. A person forcing another person to submit is never instructed in the Bible. Paul is not talking about compulsion, but an attitude of submission on both parts.

We will be looking at the Equality Wheel and the Power & Control Wheel. It's important to see these characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships because there can be no change without first understanding what is wrong.

- 8) Read the Equality Wheel. Which area has been the strongest in a relationship you've had?
- 9) Which area has been the weakest in a relationship you've had?
- 10) Read the Power & Control Wheel. Is there an area that has caused you concern in a relationship you've had?
- 11) Based on the Greek definition of submission (cooperation), how can you practice submission to others this week?

Read the following every week:



Your church's Domestic Kindness Action Team (DKAT):

- Equips the whole church with DK instruction in Godly living and
- Connects the oppressed and the repentant controllers to expert help.

If you can be anything, Choose to Be Kind