Discussion Guide

God's Desire for Relationships
Colossians 3:18-4:1; Ephesians 5:21-6:9
November 22, 2026

PART 1: RECAP. HAVE SOMEONE READ THIS OUT LOUD.

This last week we continued in Colossians 3, where Paul called us to a different type of peace marked by grateful hearts and encouraging one another. Now, as we continue through the chapter, and into chapter four, our verses this week are all about voluntary submission through servitude to Christ for the purpose of healthy relationships. One of the main themes we see in this passage is that God cares about relationships and wants us to submit to one another.

- What is a household chore or work around the house that you absolutely hate doing and try to avoid if at all possible?

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PART 2: HAVE SOMEONE READ COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1 OUT LOUD. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP.

- Why do you think Paul addresses different relationships within the household individually? (vv. 18-21)
- What do you think Paul means when he tells children to obey their parents in everyting and fathers not to provoke their children? (vv. 22-23). Is there a way in which our motivations play into this command?
- Why does Paul emphasize working with 'sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord' rather than simply doing what is minimally expected of us? (v. 22)
- What does Paul mean when he says, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men..."? (vv. 23-25)

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PART 3: REFLECT. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER.

- How does your relationship with Christ change the way you treat the people closest to you?
- How do you typically respons when someone you have authority over disappoints you or doesn't meet your expectations?
- Think about your daily responsibilities, whether at home, work, or in other places. Do you approach these things as opportunities to serve the Lord, or do you sometimes treat them as meaningless tasks? What would change if you approached them differently?
- If someone watched you while you work, manage your responsibilites, or treat others throughout the week, would they see someone who serves Christ? What is one way you chould change the way you act that will help you reflect Christ?

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KEY VERSE:
Ephesians 5:21
"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

NEXT STEPS:

- I am thankful that God cares about healthy relationships and has given us princples to live by. I will choose to live by those principles.
- I will submit my own interests and rights for the sake of making my relationsip with Christ stronger.
- I will submit my own interests and rights for the sake of making my relationship with _____ stronger.