

Sermon Based Small Group Guide for September 25, 2022 sermon:
"NOBODY likes to submit"

Warm up:

1. Every year, at the beginning of our small group season, it is good to stop and talk about your hopes and expectations for your group. We hope you will become closer friends. We hope you will grow in your faith through a deeper study of God's word and an honest discussion of your spiritual progress (and struggles). We also hope that you will find ways to SERVE as a group. This is a new expectation for many groups, but doing some meaningful ministry together can create lasting memories and the excitement of seeing how God can work through you. What do YOU hope happens this year in and through your small group?

2. Which of these "acts of submission" is more difficult for you and why? 1.) Obeying the speed limit? 2.) Paying your taxes? 3.) Honoring your boss? 4.) Marriage roles?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes) Read: Romans 1:28-32

1. ASK: Why does the world hate the principle of submission?

The last part of Romans chapter 1 is a very dark passage, talking about the moral decline of people when they reject God and His ways. Satan's strategy, from the beginning, has been very clear- to get people to deny, distrust and disobey God. Submission to God is the exact opposite of that- it accepts, trusts and obeys God and His ways. What destructive traits do you see in Romans 1:28-32?

2. ASK: What objections do people raise about the concept of Biblical submission in a marriage? To be more blunt- Why does "wives submit..." make people so upset?

Does the Bible say women are INFERIOR? Read Genesis 1:27

Does the Bible say women have no WISDOM, CREATIVITY, DRIVE? Proverbs 31:16-18

Does the Bible forbid women LEADING? Priscilla was clearly a leader. Romans 16:3

What happens in any workplace, organization or group where there is no leader?

What happens in a marriage and family when there is no clear leader and no submissive followers? Read 1 Corinthians 14:33. How does this apply?

3. ASK: How is fear a legitimate concern for wives where submission to their husband is concerned? Do men always make great decisions? Are all men godly?

Read 1 Peter 3:6. Sarah trusted God and submitted to Abraham even when he was making fear-based decisions. See Genesis 20:9-13. We are not given a lot of insight into the conversation between Abraham and Sarah, but do you think she "pushed back" against his idea? How did her trust in God make the difference? See Genesis 20:3!

Apply it: (10 minutes)

How can your small group support and encourage you? Are you married but struggling? Share as honestly as you can and pray for each other as you close.