

Sermon Based Small Group Guide for October 2, 2022 sermon:
"Know the way, go the way, show the way"

Warm up:

1. Though often downplayed and made fun of in popular culture, the role of the husband and father in a family is extremely important. Even secular circles including psychology acknowledge that people attribute to God many of the characteristics of their earthly father. How did your earthly father help (or maybe hurt) your perception of God?

2. There are different ways to lead. This is true everywhere in our society. There are coaches who are fierce, harsh and demanding and sometimes their teams win, making people think that is the right way to motivate players and get the best out of them. There are husbands who think that leading means being "the boss", rigid and demanding. What should a husband's leadership in the home look/feel like?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes) Read: Ephesians 5:25-30

1. ASK: What makes loving someone else sacrificially so difficult?

This passage in Ephesians 5 talks about husbands loving their wives the way Christ loves the Church. What makes this an incredibly high standard? If someone says, "I don't even know how or where to begin to learn to love like that!", what does Paul say in verses 28 and 29 of Ephesians 5 to say, "Yes, you do know how to love like this!". Who do we love very well almost all of the time?

2. ASK: Is there a time in your life when you felt lavishly, generously, sacrificially (agape) loved? When? How?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Obviously, agape love should flow in all directions in a marriage and family (husband to wife, wife to husband, parents to children, etc.), but again and again in the New Testament, Paul says specifically to husbands, "Love your wife". Why is this such an important starting point to a healthy marriage/family? Go through the agape love elements in the 1 Corinthians passage and talk about how "patience, kindness, etc." should look when it comes from a husband to his family.

3. ASK: In our culture, people openly deny that there is any difference between a man and a woman (in fact, both can supposedly become pregnant, both should serve on the frontlines of war, etc.). Is it wrong and "sexist" to say men and women are different?

Read 1 Peter 3:7. Almost every Bible translation says, in some way, the woman is "weaker". Is this wrong? How does the rest of the verse reinforce the point that "physically weaker" DOES NOT mean less loved or gifted by God than men?

Apply it: (10 minutes)

Pray for the men, the husbands, the fathers, the sons, the boys in your life. They are being dismissed by culture, but the church needs them to LEAD in LOVE!