

RECAP

In what areas of your life this week did you see the transforming power of the Holy Spirit at work?

In what ways were you tempted to fall back into behavior modification?

IDEA 1

Do I, do we, have an end goal that dictates our behavior? Not only in our behavior toward our community but particularly our closest relationships.

Are you aware of what your end goal is in life? If so, how would you define it?

How does your end goal dictate your behavior? In what ways does it impact your relationships with others?

IDEA 2

What exactly does Paul mean when he talks about submission, slavery, and the apparent patriarchy in Eph 5 & 6? Paul's intention is to guide us toward three responses: to reimagine, reshape, and redeem.

To Reimagine – Our relationships in light of our new identity

To Reshape – Our practice of power toward sacrificial love

To Redeem – Our communal witness in a broken world.

How have your relationships with others changed or been reimagined in light of your identity as a follower of Jesus? What specifically looks different in the way you act towards them?

In what ways are you currently being challenged to die to yourself out of sacrificial love for someone else? Where are you finding it difficult to release power in a relationship?

IDEA 2

Love, as defined by Jesus and practiced in our most intimate relationships, is the way we testify to the mysterious realities of God himself. John 13:35 says, “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” You see, it begins with our love for God, our marriages/families, church, and the outer community. When we do this well, people actually experience the presence of God.

How are your friendships, marriage, family, Life Group, and community testifying to the mysterious reality of the triune God? How are others experiencing the loving presence of God through these relationships?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Group Devotional Reading

As you finish your discussion on the sermon, **take some time to read Ephesians 5:15-6:9 out loud.** As someone slowly reads it, have each member listen for a word or phrase God highlights for them. Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Then, spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving. If you would like to engage with this passage in a deeper way throughout the week, you could use the [Weekly Audio Reflection](#) on our website.

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PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Where is God inviting you to become a person of love this week? Is there a relationship that comes to mind where he’s prompting you to extend and image his love?

Consider these 3 expressions of love below:

- Reciprocity
- Sacrificial Service
- Mutual Submission

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Is there one that jumps out at you? What could it look like for you to express this love towards someone else this week?

Take a couple minutes to be quiet before God and listen for his response to these questions. Invite your Life Group to share after what God revealed to them in response.