**LifeGroup Study**

**YOU’RE RICHER THAN YOU THINK**

**Love Changes Everything**

**2022-05-29**

**Leader Notes**

**OVERVIEW:**

Welcome back to our series, You’re Richer Than You Think. This week we’re looking at Colossians Col. 3:18-4:1 & 4:7-18. In Christ we are to re-arrange our households. Jesus is now the master of our homes and we are to follow his model of self-giving love. This week’s LifeGroup study gives you a chance to reflect on your life. How different is it from the culture? How much do you truly embrace the way of submission(3:18), love(19), obedience(20), encouragement(21), hard work(23) and justice(4:1)? Our goal is that all of us would experience the joy of being called to a new way of life.

**ICEBREAKER:** My Love Language

All of us feel loved in different ways. We have our own love language. Here are 5 love languages – things that make you feel loved. 1. Words of Affirmation. 2. Acts of Service. 3. Receiving Gifts 4. Quality Time. 5. Physical Touch. What would you say is your top love language? Why is this one top for you? **Share your love language with the group!**

**STUDY:**

1. In his teaching on Sunday, Pete talked about how in Christ we are to rearrange our households to be a place of self-giving love. **What was a highlight for you from Pete’s teaching?**

READ: Colossians 3:18 – 4:1 and 4:7-18

READ: Philemon – As we go through today’s study, notice how themes in this study are lived out in Paul’s appeal to Philemon.

1. Read Colossians 3:18 and Ephesians 5:21-22. Here we have the first aspect of self-giving love in a Christian household – “*submit* to one another”. What about the idea of mutual submission do you resist? **What would it look like to embrace this?**

LEADER NOTE: The command in Eph. 5:21 – “submit to one another” is an outcome of the command in Eph. 5:18 - to be filled with the Spirit. Those who are filled with God’s Spirit have His power to submit to one another. The reason for submitting is out of reverence for Christ. Submission is an act of worship. We resist the idea of submission because of fear. We fear our best interests will be overlooked. To embrace submission is to trust that Jesus is Lord of our home. He will take care of us. As we submit we allow Him to work in our hearts as we follow His lead of self-giving love.

1. READ Colossians 3:19 and Ephesians 5:25-33. A key ingredient in a Christian household is *self-giving love*. Here we have the command, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her …” (Eph. 5:25). Spend some time talking about self-giving love in a family. **When have you seen this? What could you do to model this?**

LEADER NOTE: Our natural tendency as humans is self-serving love. This is why we don’t need to teach children to scream to get their way! As we are transformed by Jesus, our patterns begin to shift from self-serving love to self-giving love. Self-giving love means putting the needs of others ahead of ourselves, listening to others to understand how we can help, sacrificing our desires and time to serve others. Your group members may have had a parent, for example, who demonstrated self-giving love for them. Encourage them that these examples can be wonderful role models for us. Our call as family members is to model Jesus to one another. Those closest to us will see our flaws, but they can also see Christ’s love as we trust Him to empower us to love as He loves.

1. READ Colossians 3:20 and Ephesians 6:1-3. In these passages we read how children are to respond to their parents in a Christian household – “Children, *obey* your parents…” (Colossians 3:20). **What do you see in these passages about why children should obey their parents?**

LEADER NOTE: In the Colossians passage Paul tells us children are to obey their parents because “ … this pleases the Lord.” In the Ephesians passage we see that children are to obey their parents “because you belong to the Lord“ and it “is the right thing to do” (6:1). As with the other commands we’ve looked at so far, our relationship with the Lord impacts our relationship with others. Parents are a God-given authority in our lives. A parent’s responsibility is to lead their children in a God-honouring way. A child’s responsibility is to follow that lead so that things will go well with them (see Eph. 6:3)

1. READ Colossians 3:21 and Ephesians 6:4. Here we have another key virtue of a Christian household - *encouragement*. Rather than exasperate (discourage) their children, fathers are to treat their children is a way that encourages them to grow up loving and following God. **What does this look like?**

LEADER NOTE: In the Ephesians passage we read that fathers are to raise their children “ … with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” Raising a child means disciplining them to grow in a way that honours the Lord. This involves helping them mature from self-serving love to self-giving love. Parents are to introduce their children to the instruction of the Lord. This means modeling and encouraging them to grow a love for God through elevating the teachings of the Bible, active participation in the church and community with other believers.

1. READ Colossians 3:23 and Ephesians 6:5-8. Another important attribute of a Christian household is *hard work*. Although Paul wrote these verses about slaves, he was not condoning slavery. Rather, Paul encourages Christ-followers to work hard. **What does Paul tell us in these verses about a healthy work ethic?**

LEADER NOTE: Christian slaves were to obey their masters. Paul brings out the practical implications of this in his letter to Philemon. Slaves were to please their masters at all times, not just when they were being watched. Slaves were to realize their ultimate master is Jesus. They were to work for Him with all their heart, knowing they would be rewarded by Him. A healthy work ethic today involves many of these traits – working enthusiastically, faithfully, obediently, serving Jesus as our ultimate boss.

1. READ Colossians 4:1 and Ephesians 6:9. In these verses we read about another important trait for Christian households – *justice*. Notice in the Ephesians passage that Paul writes, “In the same way …”. In other words, masters should relate to their slaves in the same way Paul advises slaves to relate to their masters. The implications of this are brought out in a powerful way for us in Paul’s appeal to Philemon, the master of a runaway slave. **What do you see in these verses about how to relate to one another with justice?**

LEADER NOTE: Justice is about treating one another fairly, as we would want to be treated. In an employment situation, justice is ensuring employees are fairly paid and treated well in their role. Rather than lording it over others, or using our superior position to get our way, we are to look out for the best interests of others, especially those who work for us or are dependent on us.

1. God calls us and shapes us to be people who demonstrate self-giving love. **What do you sense God saying to you about showing self-giving love to others?**

LEADER NOTE: Self-giving love is hard because it goes against our sin-nature and in a different direction than much of our culture. Some of your group members may wonder how to show self-giving love in a family or work-place where this love would not be reciprocated. God’s call is for us to show self-giving love. We are not responsible to try to change other people. We are called to be faithful and to leave the results up to God. Encourage your group members that God will give them power to live out self-giving love as they say “yes” to Him.

**EXPERIENCE GOD**

LISTEN: Reckless Love – Cory Asbury <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE>

PRAY: “God, thank You for your reckless love for me. Help me to love as You love.”

**COLOSSIANS DEVOS:**

Each week of this series we have 5 devotionals for you to read on your own.

Read the devos this week and notice how this habit enriches your walk with Jesus!

<https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/richer-than-you-think/>

**PRAY**

This week, let’s pray for our local outreach, The Big Serve! <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/>

* The Big Serve is happening this week!! Please pray for everyone who will be serving in and around our community.
* Please pray for our volunteers to learn something new and be impacted by our local partners in a lasting way.
* Pray that each project will go smoothly!