BIBLE STUDY WORKSHEET

Mutual Honor in Marriage

Submission with dignity. Leadership through sacrifice. Unity under Christ.

Prepared by Vanessa

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."
Proverbs 31:25

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for designing marriage as a covenant of love, faithfulness, and unity. Forgive us when pride, fear, selfishness, or unhealthy ideas about authority distort the way we treat one another.

Teach wives to honor with wisdom and strength. Teach husbands to lead by serving, sacrificing, listening, and loving as Christ loves. Help both spouses submit their hearts to You, seek truth together, welcome accountability, and protect one another's dignity. Make our marriages safe reflections of Your character.

In Jesus' name, I pray,
Amen.

Name _____ Date _____

Bible Study Group _____ Leader _____

PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

This lesson explores biblical submission and leadership through the whole picture of Ephesians 5: mutual reverence for Christ, a wife's willing honor, and a husband's self-giving love. Neither role permits domination, fear, erasure, or harm.

- [ ] Christ is the authority
- [ ] Both spouses have dignity
- [ ] Leadership serves
- [ ] Wisdom and safety matter

PART ONE

Begin with Mutual Reverence

Before Paul addresses wives and husbands individually, he calls believers to place themselves at one another's service out of reverence for Christ.

> "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."
>
> **EPHESIANS 5:21**

THE STARTING POINT

Christian marriage is not a contest for control. Both spouses answer to Christ. Both are called to humility, honesty, faithfulness, repentance, service, and love. Different responsibilities never mean different human value.

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

1. How does Ephesians 5:21 shape the verses that follow?

2. What is the difference between godly order and a struggle for power?

3. What does mutual honor look like in daily decisions, conflict, parenting, finances, and intimacy?

COVENANT POSTURE

I am not above correction. I am not beneath dignity. We both belong to Christ, and we both seek what honors Him and protects our covenant.

Where do we already practice mutual respect well?

PART TWO

A Wife's Submission: Strength Under God

Biblical submission is a willing posture of respect and cooperation offered to Christ. It is not inferiority, silence, loss of conscience, or blind compliance.

> "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord."
>
> **EPHESIANS 5:22**

WHAT SUBMISSION CAN INCLUDE

[ ] Respectful partnership
[ ] Honest counsel
[ ] Support for godly direction
[ ] Prayerful cooperation
[ ] Speaking truth in love
[ ] Trust that grows with character

WHAT SUBMISSION DOES NOT REQUIRE

[ ] Obeying sin
[ ] Accepting abuse
[ ] Silencing wisdom
[ ] Ignoring danger
[ ] Surrendering conscience
[ ] Covering destructive behavior
[ ] Losing equal dignity

SUBMISSION IS FIRST TO GOD

A wife remains morally responsible before God. She may respectfully disagree, ask questions, request time, seek wise counsel, establish boundaries, and refuse participation in sin, abuse, coercion, or danger.

1. Which unhealthy definition of submission needs to be corrected?

2. What helps a wife offer respect without abandoning her voice or discernment?

3. How can a wife communicate concern with both courage and honor?

PART THREE

A Husband's Leadership: Love That Lays Itself Down

The model for a husband's leadership is not worldly power. It is Jesus, who used authority to serve, protect, tell the truth, wash feet, and give Himself for others.

> "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."
>
> **EPHESIANS 5:25**

THE FRUIT OF CHRISTLIKE LEADERSHIP

Christlike leadership	Controlling leadership
Listens and seeks understanding	Dismisses or intimidates
Accepts correction and accountability	Claims never to be questioned
Sacrifices personal comfort	Uses others for personal comfort
Protects dignity and safety	Creates fear or instability
Tells the truth and keeps commitments	Manipulates, hides, or blames

1. Which fruit of servant leadership is most visible in a healthy husband?

2. How should a husband respond when his wife raises a wise concern?

3. What accountability should a husband welcome from Scripture, church, mentors, and trusted community?

LEADERSHIP TEST

Does this direction reflect Scripture, protect dignity, welcome truth, consider the family's needs, and look like the sacrificial love of Jesus?

PART FOUR

How Do We Discern Whether Leadership Is Healthy?

A wife cannot control her husband's choices, but she can evaluate fruit, communicate truth, seek wisdom, and respond with godly boundaries.

> "By their fruit you will recognize them."
>
> **MATTHEW 7:16**

HEALTHY LEADERSHIP CHECK

Evidence	Consistent	Needs growth	Serious concern
Humility and teachability	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Integrity in private and public	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Gentleness and self-control	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Shared prayer and wise counsel	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Care for spouse and children	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Accountability and repentance	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

1. What fruit gives you confidence in your husband's direction?

2. What concern needs a calm conversation, wise counsel, or outside support?

3. Which decision should be paused until there is more clarity or safety?

WHEN THERE IS DISAGREEMENT

Pray. Slow the decision when possible. Name the concern specifically. Listen to each other. Compare the direction with Scripture. Seek qualified, trustworthy counsel. Do not use 'submission' to force a rushed answer or silence a legitimate warning.

PART FIVE

Shared Discernment, Boundaries, and Safety

Unity grows when both spouses bring their wisdom, experience, questions, and gifts to the marriage. Seeking agreement is often an act of patience and love.

> "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."
>
> **PROVERBS 15:22**

OUR DISCERNMENT PLAN

The decision or concern we need to bring before God:

What Scripture or biblical principle applies?

What does each spouse see, fear, need, or hope for?

What reliable facts or practical risks must be considered?

Who is a wise and trustworthy counselor we can involve?

What would protect peace, dignity, responsibility, and safety?

SAFETY IS NOT REBELLION

No spouse is required to remain in immediate danger, conceal abuse, obey an illegal or sinful demand, or avoid professional and legal help. Threats, violence, sexual coercion, stalking, isolation, financial control, and intimidation require serious outside support. Call emergency services when there is immediate danger.

CLOSING TOGETHER

Leadership and Submission Under Christ

A wife honors God through wisdom, respect, courage, and truth. A husband honors God through sacrificial love, humility, responsibility, and service. Both remain accountable to Christ.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, be the true Head of our marriages. Teach wives to walk in wisdom, strength, respect, and freedom from fear. Teach husbands to lead with humility, sacrifice, gentleness, and integrity. Expose every misuse of authority and bring wise help where there is harm. Help couples listen, pray, repent, seek counsel, and make decisions that reflect Your truth and love. May our homes show that biblical authority protects, serves, and gives life. Amen.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Godly submission never erases a wife's voice, and godly leadership never demands fear. The strongest marriage is not built by one spouse overpowering the other, but by two people placing themselves under Christ and choosing truth, service, wisdom, and love.

CLOSING CIRCLE

One truth that brought clarity to my understanding of marriage roles:

One area where I want prayer, wisdom, or support:

MY DECLARATION

I will honor God's design without surrendering truth or dignity. I will seek a marriage shaped by Christlike love, wise submission, humble leadership, mutual respect, and safety.

Signature _____ Date _____