

God Time – Building a Home of Honor

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. You can read them each day or listen to the daily audio that is sent to you. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided so if you miss a day you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week...God still loves you!

Monday: Psalm 127:3-5

Tuesday: Ephesians 5:31-33

Wednesday: Exodus 20:12

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Friday: 1 Peter 4:8-10

Diving Deeper

Jesus on Relationships – Building a Home of Honor.

John 13:34-35 – A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Jesus' days are coming to an end, but His disciples do not fully understand this. They have just finished eating the Passover meal in the Upper Room. Jesus will soon be arrested and condemned to death. He will very soon be crucified on the cross of Calvary. The disciples will be scattered, afraid, and full

of doubt. The One they believed in will have been taken from them. Their faith will be shaken. If there was ever a time they needed each other, it would be then. We live in a much different world today, but the difficulties we face are similar. The world in which we live is increasingly less tolerant of our faith. Our religious liberties are vanishing before our eyes. Our faith is being tested as never before. We need each other more than ever before. Jesus spoke these words thousands of years ago, but they are as timely today as they were when He spoke them. He gives them a “new” command that “Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. This is not entirely a new commandment because this command can be summed up by two commands previously spoken by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40: Love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love others. Then why is this considered a new commandment? The most important “new” dimension is the standard which He sets for the love He requires. It is one thing to love one another as we love and care for each other, but it is a much greater love that gives up one’s own life for another. The sacrificial work of Christ on the cross of Calvary is the “new” standard for the Christian’s love for fellow believers. He is giving them words to guide them in His absence. Jesus is aware of the need for love among the disciples. All of the disciples were different with different personalities and points of view. They were to lay aside any personal differences they had and love one another. This stands as a great challenge for us even today.

This is the standard of love we are to apply to our marriage and to the development of a loving and caring home that honors God. If we cannot love one another in our marital relationship as Jesus loved His disciples, then our marriage will suffer, and God will not be honored. Husband and wives are called to love one another. The difficulty comes because marriage brings two together who have different likes and dislikes; different strengths and weaknesses; and different callings. However, we need each other. We face tremendous challenges from the world in which we live, and as a result, it is important to set aside our differences and love each other. Just as the disciples were commanded to love each other as He loved them; in marriage, we are also commanded to love each other as He loved us. Our love as husband and wife must be selfless, impartial, enduring, and sacrificial. When we love as Christ loved, others will know we are true followers of Christ and our marriage will be God honoring.

Paul expresses this type of love in Romans 12:9-10. But notice the key word he uses to describe how we are to deal with each other. He says we are to do so “tenderly”. Always approach others with a tender love that builds up rather than tears down.

1. Reflect on how your marriage can be strengthened when seeing love as Christ displayed love on the Cross?
2. What impact can this have on your building a home that honors God?
3. Can others see that your marriage is built on a deep abiding love centered on Christ?
4. What struggles do married couples deal with in raising their children in a Godly home while trying to maneuver through the evils and challenges of the world?
5. What steps can you take to center your marriage and home around Jesus?
6. Read Romans 12:9-10 and discuss Paul’s use of the word “tenderly” in how we are to deal with our spouse, our children and with others?