



# DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 20 & 23

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## LEADER INFO:

Please make sure that you are *frequently* checking your group roster and reaching out through text or phone call to provide details about your group and to encourage attendance in your group!

PLEASE remember to take attendance each week through your email reminders or your church community builder LEAD app.

REMINDER: Don't forget to request to join our *closed* Facebook page to stay in the loop on all the latest events and updates! You can join by searching for "The Church of Eleven22 Disciple Group Leaders" on Facebook and then requesting to join the group!

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## GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Vision Gathering** - These Vision Gathering will be a night of worship and prayer where we will gather together and celebrate all that God has done since we opened the doors in the 2012. We will hear from Pastor Joby about where he sees God leading us in this next season. Light dinner will be served at 6:15pm, childcare available upon request. Childcare will be provided 0-5th grade. Childcare available upon request.

RSVP at [coe22.com/visiongathering](http://coe22.com/visiongathering)

Tuesday, October 2 - All Campuses // 7:00pm

**Encounter Retreats** - Encounter Retreats are a chance to get away from your normal routines and dive deeper into your relationship with Jesus and connect with others.

September 28-30: Marriage – Crystal River, FL

October 19-21: Women's – St Simons Island, GA

October 19-21: Golf – Fripp Island, SC

December 8: Sporting Clays – Jacksonville, FL

Learn more about all trips coming up this fall and sign up at [coe22.com/deepen](http://coe22.com/deepen).

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**TEXTS: GENESIS 2:18-25, EPHESIANS 5:20-33, COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**

**THE RECAP:** In the first week of our Dysfunctional Family series, we unpack what it means to be a wife according to the Bible. From looking into Genesis at the creation of Eve, to Ephesians and the role of a wife, and to Colossians and the holy lifestyle we are called to live out. Whether single or married, as women we can all strive to live a life that honors our families, our husbands, and most importantly God.

**THE POINT:** "AN EXCELLENT WIFE IS THE CROWN OF HER HUSBAND, BUT SHE WHO BRINGS SHAME IS LIKE ROTTENNESS IN HIS BONES." (PROVERBS 12:4) YOU WILL EITHER BE A CROWN OR CANCER TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

# TEACHING & DIALOGUE

**Have someone read Genesis 2:18-25 out loud.**

In the beginning of Creation, God made man in His own image. In these verses, we see God creating the woman out of the man, different from the man but equally in God's likeness. Then the man and woman are joined together in marriage. Both the man and woman were created with similarities to and differences from one another, and God gave them separate but complementing roles in their marriage relationship. All of this happened prior to sin entering into the world, which means that our differences should be acknowledged and celebrated as they are necessary for accomplishing the work that God has called us to.

1. What do these verses say about who God is?  
*(God is eternal (He has always and will always exist), omnipotent (He is all-powerful and capable of doing anything), and sovereign (He is in perfect control of His creation for our good and for His glory). God is the Creator who has designed and created the universe and everything in it. While God is the same yesterday, today and forevermore, we go back to Genesis to see the origins of our relation to Him, to better understand ourselves and the God we follow.)*
2. What do these verses say about God's design and creation of women?  
*(In Verse 18, God says, "It is NOT good that the man should be alone." Even in the best/idyllic circumstances of the garden, God declares that man is in need of a complementary partner. Both men and women are equally created in God's image and have the same access to God through faith in Christ. While the man and woman are equal in their personhood, they are distinct from one another in order to display more of the fullness of who God is. Verse 21 says that God created woman out of man's ribs. The female is not made out of the male's head to top him, nor out of his feet to be trampled by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected and near his heart to be beloved. From the beginning, God intended a harmonious side by side relationship between men and women.)*
3. What does it mean to you that God calls the woman her husband's "helper" (verse 18)? Explain why this term is good or bad news to you?  
*(When God made a "helper" fit for the man, He didn't bring the man a robot, a slave or a Labrador, but rather, God created the woman: equal to the man, but distinct from him physically and in aspects of her character. God also had more in mind when He created woman than curing man's loneliness. God made woman to be her husband's indispensable partner and necessary ally. Whatever each one lacks, the other accomplishes. While it's easy in today's culture to think that the word "helper" implies subordination, we see from these verses that God has had a specific plan in place to use the gifts and unique character of women all along. We also find that 20 other times in the Old Testament, the word "Ezer" (Hebrew for Helper) is also used to describe God Himself)*

**Have someone read Ephesians 5:20-33 out loud.**

Marriage was created by God to serve as visible picture of the gospel. While you and I were both created in the image of God, we are sinful, and therefore, have rightly earned God's punishment of wrath. However, Jesus came on a rescue mission to save sinners. He lived the perfect life that none of us could, and died in our place, taking God's punishment for sin on Himself. The husband and wife union serves as a tangible illustration of Christ and His bride, the church. The roles of husbands and wives inside of a marriage exist in order to further illustrate the roles of Jesus and us, the church body.

A MOVEMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO DISCOVER  
AND DEEPEN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

ESTABLISHED  
★ 2012 ★

4. What is the purpose of marriage?  
*(This might sound harsh or surprising, but your marriage is not about you, and it isn't about your spouse. Nor is it about your happiness. Your marriage is about displaying that Christ is Before All Things in your life. And if you are a believer, God intends to use your marriage as a way of making you more like Himself, as you sharpen, challenge and encourage one another. We saw in Genesis that from the beginning, marriage was God's idea. In a marriage, God binds together a man and a woman for the purpose of their relationship being a picture of Christ and the sacrificial love that He has for His bride, the collective church body. If you are a married Christian, your marriage should portray the gospel to everyone. If you are a Christian, no matter your marital status, your actions and words should point others towards Jesus.)*
  
5. If you are single and desire to be married, how are you currently preparing now to be a Godly husband or wife? If you are single and are called to remain single, how can you submit to one another out of reverence of Christ (Ephesians 5:21). How do you find this difficult to do?  
*(Even in singleness, it is possible to honor God and your future spouse. The spirit of a wife is not found in a ring, the spirit of a wife is found in your character – and the same is true for the spirit of a husband. If you desire to be married, some ways to start preparing for that now is to pray for your future spouse, set solid boundaries, focus on becoming “the one” your future spouse is looking for rather than focusing on finding “the one”. If you are called to remain single, some ways you can submit to one another out of reverence for the Lord is to honor one another, put others before yourself, and love them like Jesus.)*
  
6. According to these verses, a wife is called to “submit” to her husband. What does biblical submission look like?  
*(Wives are called to submit not because women are inferior or ill-equipped, but rather, it is to model the headship of Jesus with His bride, the church. If you are a Christian, we are equally co-heirs with Christ and our other believing brothers; think siblings, not subordinates. So wives submit to their own husbands as we ALL submit to the authority of Christ. \*This does not mean that the Bible is ever grounds for Christian wives to submit themselves or their family members to abuse. This is NOT God's intention! \*.)*

**Abuse in any form is sin and should not be tolerated. The enemy will twist this truth to try to prevent abuse victims from being freed from this injustice. If you are being abused, please let the church help. Please tell your Disciple Group Leader or a staff member.**

7. Likewise, a husband is called to love his wife as his own body and to be willing to lay down his life for her, as Jesus did for us. What does this kind of self-sacrificing love look like?  
*(Husbands are tasked with the high calling of modeling Jesus in the marriage relationship. \*Men: do not take this lightly!\* This kind of self-sacrificing love does not abuse its power or dominate in order to have control. The husband is to lead his wife (and family, if applicable) as Jesus leads his bride, the church. Jesus leads us spiritually and is concerned with our sanctification and holiness, Ephesians 5:25-27; so a husband is also responsible for leading his wife spiritually. Jesus even loved us enough to lay down his life in our place. Likewise, a husband is called to be willing to lay down his life for his wife. Make no mistake, headship comes at a steep price.)*

**Have someone read Colossians 3:12-17 out loud.**

Paul is writing to the church at Colossae to tell them to live a holy lifestyle that is a reflection of their new identity in Christ. You are not a “mistaker” in need of a life coach. You are a sinner in need of Savior. If you believe this and have surrendered your life to God's lordship, then you have the Holy Spirit inside of you equipping you to live more like Jesus. In these verses, believers can find practical wisdom for living out genuine faith by putting on the virtues of Jesus in everyday life.

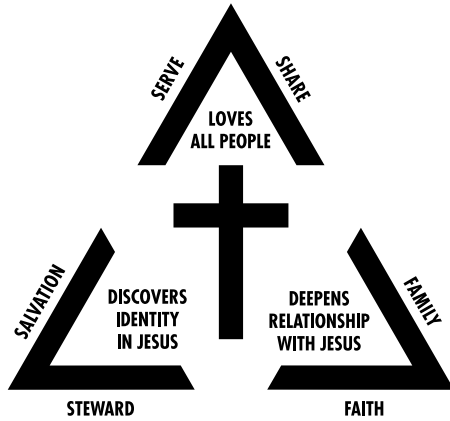
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★ 2012 ★

8. Which of the virtues listed in the verses encourages you to be a CROWN to your household? Which virtues can you work on to not be a CANCER to your household?  
*(Answers will vary; share as you feel called.)*

## DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

### DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY A disciple is someone who...



#### If married:

Take time this week to journal a prayer to God giving thanks for your spouse or if necessary, confess and repent of any ways in which you have not been honoring Him in your marriage role. If you feel led, share that prayer with your spouse and encourage them in their role.

#### If single:

Take time this week to journal a prayer to God giving thanks for the season of life that God has currently placed you in. Look for tangible ways in which you can put on the new self-virtues mentioned in Colossians 3 to show your unbelieving friends and neighbors who Jesus is and look for ways to serve your brothers and sisters in Christ.

