



SERMON GUIDE

A CULTURE OF GRACE

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

January 22, 2023

Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- S**cripture that stands out to you while you read
- O**bservations you are making about a passage
- A**pplications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- P**ray that invites God to participate in all that you do

Getting to Know Me: What would you say are some of the best character traits and attributes that you inherited from your parents?

Notes About the Passage: You'll notice in this passage that 6:2 has quotations marks around it. This is a quote from Exodus 20:12. It is the fifth of the Ten Commandments. The scripture reading today is one that is sometimes misused, so a few comments need to be made before we begin: The Bible calls spouses to love and submission. Faith Community Church considers it a misuse of scripture for one spouse to say to another: "God says you must submit to me, therefore you will obey what I command," or "God says you must love me, therefore you must love me before I treat you with respect." Each spouse is to receive the scriptures as God's command to them, not for making demands on others (even as Christ made no such demands).

The words "submission" and "love" in this passage mean exactly what it appears that they mean: obedience on the one hand, and self-sacrificing love on the other. Both of these commands need to be understood in light of Ephesians 5:32 - Marriage is a picture of Jesus and the church. Our pastoral staff at Faith Community are available to support individuals or couples who are seeking to align their marriage practices with the attitude above, or who are wondering if misuse of scripture is occurring within their marriage in harmful ways. Use our Next Steps button online at fchudson.com to connect with a pastor (choose: I'd like to connect > I'd like to talk to a leader).

Read Ephesians 5:15-6:4

S: What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?

O: Compare and contrast the instructions given to wives and to husbands.

-Why do you think Paul singles out "respect" and "love"?

-What other kinds of character attributes do you think would need to be cultivated in husbands and wives for this to become a reality?

O: What does marriage have to do with the relationship between Christ and the church?

O: How is obedience to parents meant to be a blessing?

O: What do you think it means to "provoke children to anger" and what do you think the difference is between this and "bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"?

A: If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?

A: In what ways can your marriage or parenting better reflect this passage? Is there a point of conflict between yourself and your spouse or kids that could use the application of this passage?

P: Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide the direction that you need.