

The logo consists of a white circle with a small notch at the top, containing the text "IDMC" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "MOVEMENT" in a smaller, all-caps font below it.

IDMC
MOVEMENT

LIFE GROUP STUDY MATERIAL

STRONGER TOGETHER



SESSION #4

WIVES: SUBMIT LIKE THE CHURCH

LESSON AIM

To equip wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord.

VIDEO LESSON

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvmdczg8mfY>

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 5:21-24

21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Ephesians 5:21-24 ESV

INTRODUCTION

Many of us enter marriage with ideas shaped by culture, personality, or past experiences, but God calls us to build our homes based on His design, not the world's norm. In Ephesians 5, God gives a pattern for marriage that reflects Christ's relationship with the church. Just as the church lovingly submits to Christ's leadership, wives are called to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. This may sound difficult or uncomfortable, especially in today's culture, but it is part of the beautiful order God designed for harmony and blessing.

What Does Submission Really Mean?

Submission does not mean you are less valuable, less capable, or without a voice. The Biblical word for submission is *hupotassō*. The word means to voluntarily yield to the authority of another. It is an act of strength and trust, not weakness.

Even Jesus, though fully equal with the Father, chose to submit to His will. True submission is a willing and joyful response that seeks God's order rather than insisting on personal control. It does not mean blind obedience nor suppression of your opinions. Instead, it means choosing to honor your husband's

leadership as you honor the Lord. Submission is not about losing your identity or worth. It is about willingly aligning yourself under God's authority and trusting His wisdom in how He leads your marriage. In practice, submission looks like respect, cooperation, and humility that reflect Christ's gentleness and grace. Three things to note about submission.

1. **Submission is not inferiority** – You are not less valuable or capable when you submit. Submission honors God's order, it is not to create human comparison.
2. **Submission is not slavery** – Submission is a voluntary, willing choice, an act of trust. It is not control or coercion.
3. **Submission is not forced** – Submission flows from the heart, freely given in love and faith, not demanding or imposing.

Why Must I Submit?

Submission is first and foremost an act of obedience to God. You submit not because your husband is perfect but because you trust the One who designed marriage. God established the husband as the head of the home, just as Christ is the head of the church. He leads to serve and love, not to dominate. When you willingly come under that order, you are saying to God, "I trust Your way is best." This attitude invites God's blessing and presence into your marriage. It also provides a powerful witness of faith, especially when lived out with a quiet and gentle spirit. When you choose submission, you are choosing to walk in God's will, and He promises to honor that obedience. There are three reasons to submit:

1. **It is God's design** – Submission is part of His original order for marriage.
2. **It is God's command** – Ephesians 5:24 reminds wives to submit as the church submits to Christ.
3. **It brings God's blessing** – 1 Peter 3:1–6 shows that godly submission can win hearts and draw favor from God.

What If My Husband Is Wrong?

Submission does not mean agreeing with everything or ignoring sin or harm. God never asks you to compromise truth or righteousness. But when your husband is wrong, you can still respond with humility and faith. Your confidence is not in your husband's perfection, but in God's sovereignty. You can speak truth with grace, appeal respectfully, and pray fervently, believing that God can work even through your obedience. Submitting in these moments requires deep trust in God, and He sees your heart and will honor your faithfulness.

Conclusion

Submission is not a burden. It is a beautiful expression of worship. The world may see it as outdated or oppressive, but God calls it holy and powerful. When you submit as the church submits to Christ, you reflect the very heart of the gospel: love that yields, trusts, and serves. This kind of obedience brings peace into your home and glory to God. Your submission is ultimately to the Lord, and through it you show that your hope and confidence are in Him. As you follow God's design, your marriage becomes a living testimony of His grace, and your life shines as an example of strength under the Lord's loving authority.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions for group facilitators: Every group is different. You may modify the discussion questions to suit your group and you do not need to use all the questions in the group discussion.

Question 1: The world often sees submission as weakness or outdated. How does this lesson challenge that perspective for you?

Question 2: How does seeing submission as an act of worship rather than inferiority or weakness change your perspective on your role in marriage?

Question 3: What are some practical ways you can willingly align with God's design in your marriage, especially in areas where it may feel challenging?

Question 4: When your husband makes mistakes or acts in ways you do not agree with, how can you respond with humility, prayer, and faith without compromising God's truth? For husbands, how can you support your wife to live this way?

Question 5: How can your submission reflect Christ to others and bring God's blessing into your marriage? Share any personal experiences or examples you have seen or hope to see.

Question 6: [For singles] How does understanding submission as an act of worship and trust in God shape the way you relate to authority or other important relationships in your life, such as at work, with family, or in community?

Question 7: [For singles] What lessons about respect, humility, and partnership can you apply now?

Question 8: [For singles] How can you prepare your heart and character to honor God's design for marriage while staying faithful and patient in singleness?

NEXT STEPS

As a next step, wives can intentionally practice a posture of respect, trust, and humility in their marriage. Look for opportunities each day to honor your husband's leadership as you honor the Lord, and pray for God's wisdom and strength to respond in love, even when it is challenging. Discuss with your husband how you can support one another in mutual submission and seek accountability with a trusted mentor or in a small group. For singles, the next step is to focus on cultivating a heart that trusts and honors God in every relationship now, preparing you for future marriage.