



# Storm the Gates

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### WK 3: The Bride Of Christ

#### SERIES OVERVIEW

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised to build his church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Matt 16:18) The imagery implies that hell is in a defensive posture against the advances of the church. The goal of the series is to give us a proper understanding of the offensive nature of the church in the world. We'll look at some of the most common metaphors in the NT used to describe the church and learn what each means about how to storm the gates of hell victoriously.

#### CONTEXT

Ephesians 5:22-33 emphasizes the mutual respect and love between husbands and wives, paralleling the relationship between Christ and the church. Wives are called to submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ, while husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, sacrificing himself for her sanctification.

#### THE BIG IDEA

The church is a bride. To storm the gates of hell we must be faithful to the bridegroom

#### ICE BREAKER

Pick One! Choose one of the questions below to answer. The 2nd one is for deeper community.

1. What was your favorite memory of summer 2026?
2. What is the hardest thing you've ever had to trust God with?

#### SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:22-33

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.

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.

31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.



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### GROUP DISCUSSION

**Invest in your marriage at one of "The Connected Marriage" Workshops.**  
**Available dates, info & registration below.**

Read Ephesians 5:22-33 as a group.

How does marriage serve a Gospel purpose?  
What parts of a Christian marriage put the Gospel on display? (ex. forgiveness)

How and why does God's way of submission create a wife, marriage and church that flourishes? In your experience, how has our distorted view of submission impacted women and marriages?

Look through verses 25-30 and discuss the parallels between the husband's role and Christ's being the head of the church. Make a list of what is required of the husband in order for his wife to flourish.

In verse 31, Paul quotes Genesis 2:24 where God institutes marriage as a "covenant between one man and one woman for life." How and why have we (both Christians and non-Christian) tried to redefine marriage?

Including marriage and the church, what are areas of life that if we do them God's way people flourish? (ex. purpose, gender)  
Why do we tend to not do things God's way?

As a current or future husband or wife, what part of this passage is the most difficult for you to understand and/or obey?

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

### PRAYER (In gender based groups)

\*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. In a time of confession, share an area of your life you need to fully submit to Christ and pray for each other.

### Closing Prayer.(come back together as a group)

God, thank you that your way is not easy but always worth it. We pray that our church will honor you as a body and submit to your will and your ways. May we be a people that proclaims and lives out your marriage covenant. With grateful hearts, we lift up our marriages to you. Jesus we submit and willfully put our lives under your lordship. In Jesus name, amen.

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### Available Dates:

Aug. 28/29, Sept. 11/12,  
Oct. 23/24, Nov. 6/7



Info & Registration [HERE](#)