

## **Week 5      (February 12) Colossians 3:18-4:1 Rules for Christian Households**

### **Extra info:**

*This week's lesson incorporates times for reflection and personal prayer throughout. Allow 1-2 minutes per question for self-reflection and silent prayer. Prep your group that this session will be different and will be more self-reflection and possibly less discussion than previous lessons.*

### **Colossians 3:18-4:1**

Icebreaker question: For those of you who heard the sermon this Sunday, what resonated with you most?

1. Discuss: What practical difference does our new life in Christ make in the relationship between a husband and wife? Between parents and children? Between slaves and masters?
2. Discuss: What are some ways fathers could “provoke” or “embitter” their children? (v 21) Would this be different for mothers? Food for thought: If you are a father, have you ever provoked or embittered your child? Is it something for which you need to ask forgiveness? As a child, do you need to forgive your father for provoking/embittering you in any way? *Reflect and pray: Take some time to reflect on these and a few minutes to pray about them.*
3. Discuss: How do verses 23-25 apply to your work today? What are some reasons we “slack off” at our work? How does 4:1 relate to today? Food for thought: Are you abiding by these “rules” Paul gives for workers/slaves? *Reflect and pray: Take a few minutes to think about your work situation. Confess any areas in which the Holy Spirit is convicting you.*
4. Discuss: What confirms that all these relationships are to be built around Christ?
5. Food for Thought: What aspect of Christ’s character do you need to clothe yourself with, in relation to your spouse? Your parents or children? Your employer or employees? Other relationships? *Reflect and pray: Take a few minutes to ask God to reveal areas you may need to improve and ask for his help.*

**Summary:**

Paul gives ordinary relationships within the household a new basis and motivation, unlike the surrounding culture. The way Christians treat one another within their families and societies is a concrete expression of their shared life under the lordship of Christ. May we be people who live in this way!

**NOTE:** Revisit continuing your group and the topic. Let Sheri Price [sprice@arvadacovenant.org](mailto:sprice@arvadacovenant.org) know your decision by the end of this week so we can make the necessary updates to the website as soon as this study ends.