



A 4-week small group that teaches you how to LIVE life as a Jesus Follower, establishing a relationship with Jesus and learn daily habits that will keep you in Christ and help you grow. Each week will cover a different topic and its very important that you attend each week.



If you are a mature and seasoned believer you can start here! Discover Awaken is a two-week small group to help you learn more about the mission and vision of Awaken Las Vegas to find your place to serve and grow in this community.

awakenlv.org/signup

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

COMMIT!

Ephesians 5:25-31

WEEK 21

You can't be in a relationship to get and not give.

If you are looking for a book in the Bible to read, I encourage you to pick a gospel. The gospels are filled with stories about how Jesus rescued people. That is always encouraging to read because sometimes it's hard to see beyond the problem when you're struggling. It's hard to see how the situation could turn from something painful into something life-giving, from something broken into something filled with power, from something that brings you sadness into something that brings you joy. The gospels remind us that Jesus can do it. But you don't have to look to ancient history to see a miracle; you can look at the church today. As God's people gather on a Sunday morning, the house is filled with miracles! Stories about how Jesus healed a marriage that was headed for divorce. How He changed a broken, hopeless, lifeless, and loveless marriage into a powerhouse of fidelity, faithfulness, strength, and vitality. But to get there, you have to commit. You can't experience the blessing without the commitment. You won't flourish without fidelity. It all begins with turning to Jesus as your source and letting His love flow in your life and through your life to your family and the local church. Then, your marriage will shine as a light radiating the love that Jesus has for His people.

(10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Pray that God will permeate your time with His presence. Ask God to do deep work in understanding what it means to be committed to Him, your family, and your church.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Everyone should be a conduit of God's love to others, especially husbands to their wives. Derek said the first step to sharing God's love is going to the source to receive it ourselves. You can't share something that you don't have, or you have to have it to share it. Explain why it is essential to receive Jesus' love and how we do that in practical terms. What's the difference between knowing about God's love and knowing God's love?

Paul isn't saying that husbands should know about God's love, but that they should know God's love.

2. How did Jesus fight for His bride, the church? How does that relate to husbands' commitment to their wives? According to these Scriptures and the teaching, to love like Jesus, you must give, work, and see. What does that mean? Are you a person who demonstrates real commitment to God, your family, your church, in the workplace, and with your friends? Would others say you are?

In the light of Christ's complete giving of himself to make the church holy and cleanse her, husbands should be utterly committed to their wives' total well-being, especially their spiritual welfare.

3. For the metaphor of marriage to radiate Christ's love for the church and the church's love for Him, you have to be committed to God, your spouse, and your church. Why is commitment necessary in each of those areas?

Don't be the person who wants the blessing without the commitment; to flourish without the fidelity.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: *Ephesians 5:25-27* "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 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."

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Spend time praying for the husbands in the group (if everyone is single, pray for the potential future husbands). Pray they would be more committed to God and their wives. Pray they would be empowered to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Provide a place for them to give specific prayer requests.

(5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Focus on the Source this week. Receive fresh love from Jesus and be determined to share His love with those around you. Husbands be particularly focused on loving your wives like Jesus loved you. Focus on giving, not getting.