

## Be a Man!

Loving Like a Man – September 18/19



**Texts:** Ephesians 5:25-27; John 13:34-35; John 15:13

**Gather:** Take time to catch up and share what has been going on since you were last together. Use this time to move everyone to the “same communal page.” Allow conversation to flow in a manner that makes it safe to share needs.

**Pray:** As you begin your focus time together, ask God to lead the discussion and to open hearts to what He has for you as individuals and as a group. If it fits, ask one of the women in the group to pray for the men during the study that they may be affirmed as having God’s ability to model the love of Jesus and to express it every day, all day.

**Icebreaker:** What food would it be hard for you to give away and then watch someone else eat?

**Focus:** Men who love like Jesus will love selflessly and unconditionally.

**Introduction:** **Ephesians 5:25-27** – Whether a man is married or not, this passage highlights the reality that God has wired men with an awesome potential that is to be expressed. In the role of protector and provider, men have a capacity to express that role with a love that is profound and empowering. When Jesus called us to “love one another” He knew that men had the potential to look just like He did in the action of loving. Paul uses the image and behavior of Jesus to give men a clear goal and vision for the action and outcome of love. Men love in a manner that brings complete safety to the people around them – especially the women. Jesus gave His life – and was raised back to life – so that we could face life with confidence and assurance.

Because we follow Jesus, we know we are forgiven and cherished. We live fully knowing God and Jesus did not see death as too much of a price to pay for our ability to pursue our spiritual and eternal potential. Men, your love is to give to all those around you the same sense of joy. Love in order to bring safety, freedom, hope, and joy to everyone – especially the women God has given you the privilege to love. A man’s love – this is an unbelievable ability especially given to men by God – is to bring purity and holiness to those he holds dear!

**John 13:34-35** – Jesus gives His followers a very clear goal and reveals the outcome. He calls us to a new level of love – a new command to reveal our following of Him not by pious worship in church but by practical care and sacrificial love every day in all places. This love is the unmistakable mark of one who loves like Jesus – a Christian.

**John 15:13** – Jesus gives a clear definition of the greatest love. When one loves like Jesus, giving all we have – including our life – is natural and normal.

### Study:

1. How did Jesus “give himself up” for all of us and how does a man do that for the women in his life? (Ephesians 5:25)

2. How did Jesus make his followers holy – set apart and special – and how do men do that for those around them? (Ephesians 5:26)
3. How does Jesus cleanse His followers “by the washing of water and the Word” and how do men do the same at home, work, and leisure? (Ephesians 5:26)
4. What will it look like when Jesus presents his followers as blameless before God and how will it look when men do the same? (Ephesians 5:27)

**Call to Action:**

1. Read John 13:34-35. How would this type of love change our ability to share the gospel? Share a time when you saw a change in someone’s view of Christ because of the love of a Christ-follower.
2. If you are married, in what part of life do you need to practice a love that submits and sacrifices? Where do you need to complete and support your spouse? If you are not married, who can you come alongside?
3. How can we train the children around us to have this type of love?
4. Ask the women in your life if they feel safe and act on the feedback.
5. Identify one action that you will take this week to lovingly submit to someone else.

**Sharing and Prayer:** Share prayer requests, both from this discussion and from other areas of life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Closing Prayer:** If appropriate you may want to consider having one of the women pray for the men of the group. Ask God to grant each of them the awareness of their powerful gift to love and the opportunities to give themselves for the safety of those around them – especially the women, young ladies and girls they influence. Thank God for them.