

For the Leaders:

- *This is optional, but I invite you to serve communion in your group. You may have already taken communion in church on Sunday, but there is no scripture saying how often to take communion. Using bread and juice, set up communion for the people in your group. The only pre-requisite for communion is that you are a follower of Jesus. You don't need a small little communion cup like we use in church, you can serve it in any style cup you would like. DIXIE cup communion is totally acceptable!*

Before you take communion, allow for a time of prayer where anyone can thank God for what he did on the cross, ask for forgiveness, and forgive other people that they have yet to forgive. This style of communion is probably the closest to what happened during the early church.

- Close your evening in prayer, and before you leave, review any other announcements that need to be made.

See you on Father's Day!



Week of June 8, 2008

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A NEW SEASON... We are entering a brand new season for our church. In the past we have had Community Groups throughout the summer, but this summer we are taking a break. Can we still have COMMUNITY without Community Groups for the summer? The answer is **YES**, because COMMUNITY is a part of our culture. Please take the off-season to connect with people you have wanted to get to know better. You can also plan to get together with your Community Group for a Barbecue or another special occasion. You may want to plan these get-togethers this week. Be intentional about lovin' on people at the Hill.

SPIRIT OF AMERICA... Has everyone in your group signed up to help on the Fourth? We still need about 100 volunteers, so if you haven't signed up, maybe your Community Group can serve together. Contact Lisa at Lisa@churchonthehill.com.

JOIN US FOR LUNCH... Right after church on June 22 we are having a *Taco Bravo* picnic lunch as a church. Then, if you want to swim, the pools will be opened after lunch. Enjoy an afternoon together of fun and fellowship!



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Among Christians there are many different opinions about the concept of soul mates. What do you believe about God designing only one person on this planet to be your spouse? What scripture do you believe speaks to that? How can the concept of a soul mate be an obstacle in marriages?
2. When you need to have a difficult conversation with your spouse, which principles resonate most with you? Obviously, the message on Sunday was about forgiveness, but other principles were also given. What principles work best for you?
3. Read Ephesians 5:21-31. God's message to women is two-fold: submit to your husband and respect him. Ladies, what is your first emotional reaction to those concepts? Why do you feel that way?
4. How does the over-arching principle of mutually submitting to one another (verse 21) affect the application of wives submitting to their husbands?
5. How does our culture and even Western Christian culture misrepresent the meaning of the "submissive wife"?

Men were instructed in the Ephesians passage three times to do the same thing: love their wives. However, God didn't leave the interpretation of how to love their wives up to the men. He qualified the type of love he desires from husbands

as being the same kind of love that Jesus had for the church. The primary principle from this passage is that Jesus loves with a forgiving love. Read the following scriptures to discover more about how a man should love a woman. The more men know about Jesus' love the better they will be able to love their wives.

6. Read John 19:1-37. As you read, remember that the ultimate act of Jesus' love for the church was what Paul was talking about in Ephesians 5. How then do you interpret Paul's words that husbands are to love their wives as Jesus loved that church?
7. The one word that describes how Jesus loved the church was FORGIVENESS. For those people who are followers of Jesus there is an expectation that we would forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us. Read Matthew 6:14-15. This passage is not easy to grasp—not that it's hard to understand, but it's hard to live out. Talk about what it means, and how you should live it out.
8. There are many places in scripture that describe how we should forgive one another and what happens when we don't. Read Jesus' parable in Matthew 18:21-35. What does the story mean and how does it apply to our marriages?
9. Why is forgiving people so difficult? Is it different when it's your spouse you are trying to forgive or when it is a person you simply choose not to be friends with any more (an enemy)?