

modern family

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

May 10, 2026

“Modern Family”



OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we come together today with all the complexity of our families - our joys and our struggles, our gratitude and our wounds. Thank You for being present in the middle of it all.

As we reflect on Your Word and the example of Jesus, open our hearts to what You want to teach us. Give us humility to see ourselves honestly, courage to change where we need to change, and a willingness to love others the way You have loved us.

Teach us what it means to serve, to lay aside our own agendas, and to ask, “What can I do to help?” May Your Spirit guide our conversation and shape us into people who reflect Your grace in our homes and relationships.

We offer this time to You, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Ephesians 5:21-22 (NIV)

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-2 (NIV)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—

Colossians 3:18-19, 21 (NIV)

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them... ²¹ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

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INTRODUCTION

In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul drew from Jesus' use of power in what is perhaps the most powerful relational teaching of all - an instruction that changes everything in family dynamics. It all comes down to asking a simple question: What can I do to help?

Christian families should be characterized by mutual submission. The message of mutual submission is 'I'm here for you.' The assumption of mutual submission is that you are of no less value than me. The question mutual submission asks is: 'what can I do to help?' Ask that question to your family members this week.

QUESTIONS

1. What is one characteristic of your mother that you always admired?
2. Talk about a time when someone in your family went out of his or her way to help you. How did it affect your relationship with that person?
3. What is one thing you can do to improve the way you leverage your power, influence, and resources on behalf of your spouse, your children, or your parents?
4. What is one obstacle to practicing mutual submission in your family? How can you overcome that obstacle?
5. Which member of your family do you need to ask, "What can I do to help?" What can the members of this group do to help you follow through?

FINAL APPLICATION

Follow through on question number 5: ask that question to your family members this week.