

EQUIPPING THE MEN TO BE SHEPHERDS AT HOME

Taking the Friday morning study & turning it into a marital discipleship-relationship.

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

How can we encourage, equip & exhort the CFBC men to shepherd, nurture, instruct & pastor their wives at home? How can we as men follow the command of our Savior and give ourselves up for our wives and sanctify them by washing them in the Word? After all, this is what Jesus our Savior does for us? So how can we emulate our Savior and practically implement this in our own marriages? Here are some super practical suggestions.

1. PAY ATTENTION CAREFULLY. (LISTEN!)

You cannot give to your wife what you don't possess. You cannot impart knowledge to her that you do not have. So, men, as you come on Friday mornings, pay attention, focus, fight distractions and listen carefully so as to understand the teaching and meaning of God's Word. Let it sink into your mind, heart, affections, and indeed, your whole being.

2. TAKE NOTES AS NEEDED. (REMEMBER!)

Some people benefit from taking notes and jotting down memorable points. Others find great help by taking copious notes so they can review them later on and rehearse the entire study to themselves. Whatever way is best for you, the goal is to *remember* what you studied, what you learned, and what God used to teach and convict you so you can disseminate that to your wife.

3. THINK IMPLEMENTATION. (APPLY!)

As the men's study progresses, always be thinking and asking yourself, 'how must I apply what I'm learning/reading from the Word of God?' Never be happy in hearing the Word only; always be a doer. If God's Word doesn't make you better, then it's all for naught. So when you attend and listen, be humble, be willing to be convicted, broken, exposed, and molded into Christ's image by God's Spirit through the study of the Word of God. Apply to your heart *first*.

4. PRIORITIZE THE DISCUSSION. (SCHEDULE!)

Every man lives a busy life. We must schedule and prioritize appointments. If men don't schedule certain activities, it'll get crowded out or forgotten altogether. So, men, schedule a discussion with your wife. It *must* be priority. We are called by God to sanctify our wives and wash them in the Word. It's not optional! We must prioritize this discussion. Make it happen. It's as important as a meeting with your top client. There, you may have a follow-up review with a boss; but remember, on the final day, you'll stand before God Himself and give account to your faithfulness. So prioritize this. Schedule this. Make it happen. Yes, it is really *that* important.

5. SHARE PERSONAL TRUTHS LEARNED. (HONESTY!)

When you have that precious time talking with your wife, honestly share with her what you've learned. Tell her what the discussion was about. Inform her of the Scriptures you covered (even read the verses with her!). Share what you learned, doctrines that God reminded you of, insights that other men shared, and ways in which the Spirit of God convicted and challenged you. Not only is this helpful to wash your God-graced companion and help-mate in the Word and apply the Word to her heart and life, but it builds an emotional bond as you honestly and humbly share what you are learning. What a model of leadership! What exemplary husbanding!

6. TRUST THE POWER OF THE WORD. (CONFIDENCE!)

In pastoring a congregation at large or pastoring one's family at home, the shepherd must trust the power of the Word to do its work. The Word works in those who believe. So men must have confidence in God's power to work through His word to sanctify your wife *as you shepherd her in the Truth*. Trust God's Word to work in her life, in your marriage, in your relationship, and in her love for, respect for, submission to and affection for you. Men, lead and trust!