Icebreaker: Briefly describe a healthy marriage you've encountered and what made it that way.

Title: In Every Season – 'Mega Marriage' – Ephesians 5:21-33

Group Discussions:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31b & John 13:34-35 – **The Jesus Way** – Share some examples of what it should look like for us to intentionally choose "the Jesus way," loving and serving others as Jesus did, rather than simply pursuing what is easiest, most comfortable, or self-serving.

Read Matthew 19:10; Philippians 2:3-5; & Ephesians 5:21-30 – **A Profound Difficulty** – What does it mean to submit "out of reverence for Christ?" Describe what submission can look like if we follow Jesus' call to die to self by willingly setting aside our own desires for the good of our spouse. How should this change our perspective on submitting to our spouse?

Read Ephesians 5:31-32 & Revelation 21:2 – **A Profound Mystery** – How does the picture of our earthly marriage ultimately point us to the true relationship of Jesus and His Bride (the Church)? How should this truth influence the way we view our marriage? Discuss how couples can find hope in this picture even when feeling discouraged or challenged in their marriages.

Read Ephesians 5:1-2 – **A Profound Simplicity** – Why is it important to explore and embrace what Scripture teaches about submission rather than avoid or explain it away? What are some ways submission in marriage can be misunderstood or distorted? Discuss practical ways a husband and wife can submit to one another daily.

Read Colossians 2:2-3 – **Mysteries-Truths** – Discuss how understanding that God's "mysteries" are "truths" revealed through Jesus can shape the way we embrace Scripture, faith, and obedience.

Spiritual Disciplines: Review our additional sermon resources on the Church Center app at: *Church Center / Home / Sermon Resources* like: *You and Me Forever: A Video Series*

Rules for Life: (1) Submit & Sacrifice: I will lay down my preferences and need to be right for the good of my spouse, trusting that doing so will make me more like Jesus; **(2)** Remember the Mystery: When my marriage gets difficult I will remember, "This is bigger than my love story" and look back to Jesus' plan for His Bride, the church; **(3)** Mutual Submission: Daily we will ask one another, "Where can I love you better" and listen with an open heart; and **(4)** Disciple One Another: I will help my spouse become more like Jesus by encouraging, challenging, and supporting his/her faith journey.