

INTERACTIVE TEACHING/LEARNING GUIDE
Lesson #9

SESSION TITLE: “SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER”

FOCAL PASSAGE: (Phil. 2:3-4; Matt. 20:25-28)

Central Teaching/Learning Aim: To help the learner understand the principle of mutual submission both to God and to significant Christians in his/her life.

I. Creating Interest in the Series (Hook)

A. Share - the following information:

“American Idol” was the second most watched television show in America during the week of February 9-13, 26 million people watched the show. In the show the amateur singers subject themselves to the authority of the judges and the American public. Some of the judges comments can be extremely painful, others helpful. The wannabe stars react in a variety of ways. Some accept the advice; others get mad and storm off. Those who listen and take the advice can improve. Some have even come back and made it to another higher round. One contestant, William Hung, an Asian American had an extremely courageous audition.

Play - A clip of Mr. Hung singing.

State – Obviously Mr. Hung never had anyone exert authority over him in the area of singing lessons, but don’t feel too sorry for him, he is becoming a national star. He has his own website and is being asked to perform his song at ball games around the country. Submission to a voice coach can greatly enhance the opportunity to improve as a singer. Submitting to fellow Christians can help us grow and mature spiritually.

State – Today we are going to discuss the importance of submitting to other Christians and to the Lord for spiritual growth.

B. Optional Method

Share – The following humorous story:

Author John Ortberg writes:

Not long ago, there was a CEO of a Fortune 500 company who pulled into a service station to get gas. He went inside to pay, and when he came out he noticed his wife engaged in deep conversation with the service station attendant. It turned out that she knew him. In fact back in high school before she met her eventual husband, she used to date this man.

The CEO got in the car, and the two drove in silence. He was feeling pretty good about himself when he finally spoke: “I bet I know what you were thinking. I bet you were thinking you’re glad you married me, a Fortune 500 CEO, and not him, a service station attendant.”

“No, I was thinking if I’d married him, he’d be a Fortune 500 CEO and you’d be a service station attendant.”

John Ortberg, in Love Beyond Reason (Zondervan, 1998), pp. 142-43

State – Sometimes our spouses can be the best people to help humble us.

Next Share – The following excerpt from an article in the Boston Globe about a true humble hero.

He is an original Dream Teamer, an MVP, a Rookie of the Year, a Defensive Player of the Year, a scoring champion, and a 10-time All Star, but the hoopla over his retirement season, compared to Michael Jordan's, has been modest---just like the player.

David Robinson is a sure-fire bet for induction into the basketball Hall of Fame, but his greatest accomplishments have been off the court, like the way he has used his money and influence for his adopted home of San Antonio, Texas.

The Boston Globe reports, "You cannot imagine how this city and its citizens adore the retiring Spurs center." Assistant coach P.J. Carlesimo states, "Revere is not too strong a word to describe the way they feel about him." Robinson is a committed Christian, and his testimony is sterling.

His latest project is the Carver Academy, a faith-based private school for kids from the inner city, most of them Hispanic and African American. Robinson has donated more than \$9 million to get the school off the ground and takes personal interest in the kids.

Coach Greg Popovich doubts he'll see much of Robinson hanging around the locker room or seeking a job in the front office: "He's got much more sense than to stay involved in basketball. He's got interests that actually have impact on the world and have some value, unlike the rest of us. I wouldn't demean him by approaching him with [an offer to work for the Spurs]...I think he's way too committed to do something as silly as basketball the rest of his life."

Jeffrey Arthurs, South Hamilton, Massachusetts; source: Boston Globe (5-30-03)

David Robinson is a person who has lived a life of submission---submission to the Lord, submission to the military, submission to coaches and teammates. He is a picture of a Christian who cares for the needs of others first.

State – Today we are going to discuss the importance of submitting to other Christians and to the Lord for spiritual growth.

C. Optional Method – Movie Clip - "Emperor's Club"

Start: 00:07:39

Stop: 00:09:00

Synopsis:

In the movie *Emperor's Club*, Kevin Cline portrays an instructor of Western civilization in a prestigious private school. It is the first day of class, and about 30 high school boys, dressed in matching red jackets, settle into a room adorned with maps and busts of Caesar, Plato, and Socrates.

The professor asks one student to read a plaque above the door. The student is clearly nervous as he leaves his seat and walks to the door. The plaque itself appears to be an ancient artifact.

The student delivers an uncertain reading of an inscription that makes little sense to him:

I am Shutruk Nahunte, King of Ashand and Susa, Sovereign of the Land of Elam. By the Command of Inshushinak, I destroyed Sippar, took the Stele of Nurah-Sin, and brought it back to Elam, where I erected it as an offering to my God, Inshushinak. Shutruk Nahunte 1158 B.C.

The teacher then asks the class, "Is anyone familiar with this fellow? Texts are permissible, but you won't find him there. Shutruk Nahunte. King. Sovereign of Elam. Destroyer of Sippar. But behold his accomplishments cannot be found in any history book. Why? Because great ambition and conquest without contribution are without significance."

He ends by posing this question: "What will your contribution be?"

--- Emperor's Club (Universal, 2002), rated PG-13, directed by Michael Hoffman, written by Nell Tolkin

Display – the key phrase:

“... great ambition and conquest without contribution are without significance.”

State – So many times people try to find success through ambition and conquest but with the wrong motives. Caring for others, serving others, submitting to others is what makes for true success.

State – Today we are going to discuss the importance of submitting to other Christians and to the Lord for spiritual growth.

BOOK Getting Into the Word

A. Utilize - the Discussion Guide to examine the scripture.

LOOK Getting the Word into Life

A. Distribute - the handout, “Living Under Mutual Submission” and guide members to complete it.

TOOK Conclusion

IV. Conclusion (Took)

A. Lead - your SGM in a time of personal recommitment. Encourage members to submit to God and to fellow Christians.

Display – the words and play the song “Rushing Wind” by Keith Green. The song is about allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

Close in prayer.

B. Optional Method

Share – the following true story then challenge members to serve others in the name of Christ this week.

Writer Jack Kelley, nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, tells this story:

We were in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, in East Africa, during a famine. It was so bad we walked into one village and everybody was dead. There is a stench of death that gets into your hair, gets onto your skin, gets onto your clothes, and you can't wash it off.

We saw this little boy. You could tell he had worms and was malnourished; his stomach was protruding. When a child is extremely malnourished, the hair turns a reddish color, and the skin becomes crinkled as though he's 100 years old.

Our photographer had a grapefruit, which he gave to the boy. The boy was so weak he didn't have the strength to hold the grapefruit, so we cut it in half and gave it to him. He picked it up, looked at us as if to say thanks, and began to walk back towards his village.

We walked behind him in a way that he couldn't see us. When he entered the village, there on the ground was a little boy who I thought was dead. His eyes were completely glazed over. It turned out that this was his younger brother. The older brother kneeled down next to his younger brother, bit off a piece of the grapefruit, and chewed it. Then he opened up his younger brother's mouth, put the grapefruit in, and worked his brother's jaw up and down. We learned that the older brother had been doing that for the younger brother for two weeks.

A couple of days later the older brother died of malnutrition, and the younger brother lived. I remember driving home that night thinking; I wonder if this is what Jesus meant when he said, "There is no greater love than to lay down our life for somebody else."

---Jack Kelley, from message "The Stories Behind the Headlines," given at Evangelical Press Association convention in May 2000

C. Optional Method

Share – The following information from an article in Time magazine, October 20, 2003:

This month brought three tiger attacks in less than a week: on Yates; on Las Vegas showman Roy Horn, 59, who was mauled within an inch of his life before an audience of 1,500 at the Mirage hotel; and on Sarah Roy, 21, a trainer at the Keepers of the Wild animal sanctuary in Golden Valley, Arizona. While it might sound like a bizarre coincidence, the fact is that tiger attacks are not all that rare in the U.S. Between 1998 and 2001, according to a study by Philip Nyhus of Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., there were no fewer than seven fatal tiger attacks and at least 20 more that required emergency care. Since 1999, two children --- a girl, 10, and a boy, 3 --- have died in the jaws of pet tigers in Texas alone.

These numbers are not all that surprising, considering that there may be as many as 10,000 tigers in private hands in the U.S., many of them kept as pets. That is twice the estimated 5,000 or so left in the wild. In addition, Americans keep many thousands of other big cats, primarily lions and cougars. People own big cats for all sorts of reasons. Machismo is one: a tiger makes the nastiest Doberman seem like a yipping Chihuahua. Some people believe owning a tiger helps preserve an endangered species. And a tiger cub, at least, is downright adorable---until it grows up.

People who perform with tigers constantly assert dominance over the animals, and that can create a backlash. For that reason, says Paquette, it is surprising that Roy Horn and his partner, Siegfried Fischbacher, have not been attacked before. "A tiger, especially one under stress, is a time bomb waiting to go off."

Odds are that a captive tiger is under stress much of the time. Even top-notch zoos and shelters cannot give big cats the huge range they have evolved, over millions of years, to need. Under such artificial conditions, one false move can provoke an attack. Sarah Roy, for example, tried to pet Tigger, the Arizona tiger, when it approached her during a foray into the animal's cage. She is now recovering from leg wounds but plans to return to work. ---TIME MAGAZINE Archive, "Never Trust A Tiger", Oct. 20, 2003

State – It does not matter how tame they felt their tigers were. They were still attacked. Many times the sin in our life is like a tiger. We think we have it conquered, and then it rises up to attack us.

Read – (1 Peter 5:8)

We must be alert because the devil is hoping we leave him an opening.

Next Read – (1 Peter 5:9)

Many others have endured the same experiences of suffering. This is why we need one another. We need to submit to each other to help each other stay alert.

Close in prayer.

DISCUSSION GUIDE (Teacher's Copy)

1. What 4 principles of submitting to one another are outlined in (Philippians 2:3-4)?

- a. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit.**
- b. Acknowledge others as more important.**
- c. Do not look out for your own needs only.**
- d. Consider the needs of others.**

2. Identify the different relationships where submission is vital.

- a. (1Peter 5:5) Younger men should be subject to their elders.**
- b. (Hebrews 13:17) Obey and submit to your spiritual leaders.**
- c. (Titus 2:9) Slaves are to be subjects of their masters.**
- d. (Ephesians 6:1) Children should obey their parents.**
- e. (Ephesians 5:22-28) Mutual submission in marriage.**
- f. (Romans 13:1,5,7) We are to be under the authority of the governing authorities.**

3. Identify people in your life that you should submit to.

4. What characteristics are needed to live a submissive life?

5. How was Jesus' warning different from the way of the world? (Matthew 20:25-26)

In the world people try to rise to the top to gain power. Jesus said that to become great you must be a servant.

6. Jesus provided the perfect example of service to others. What are ways you can show submission to others by your actions?

7. Submission to God daily will help you live a submissive life. How can you live in submission under God?

8. How can your SGM members live in mutual submission?

LIVING UNDER MUTUAL SUBMISSION

Evaluate yourself in the area of submission as it relates to the following relationships:

- 1 I submit completely.
- 2 I submit most of the time
- 3 I submit only after long, hard contemplation.
- 4 I rarely submit.
- 5 I never submit.

_____ To the elders and staff in my church

_____ To my SGM teacher

_____ To my accountability group leader

_____ To older men/women in my life

_____ To my children

_____ To my boss

_____ To government officials

What is the value of living a submitted life?

We all have blind spots. What are my blind spots?

We do not have the strength to cope with temptation and pride on our own.
Who can you submit to for accountability?

Word for the Week

"Honoring One Another"

Romans 12:10b; Matthew 23:5-12

Week 9

Monday - Read Romans 12:10b

- Ø What is the main term in this short verse? Who is giving the honor? Who is receiving the honor?
- Ø When Christ gave His life on the cross for us, whom was He honoring with His gift of grace and salvation? Himself or us?
- Ø When we were children we thought of our personal needs first. As adults we care for ourselves but also our family. The same image applies here. Are you acting like a mature Christian in the way in which you seek to serve others? There is always room for growth.
- Ø What steps can you take in your life to take on the Christ-like character of honoring others?
Pray that you might honor God today by how you humbly honor others.

Tuesday - Read Matthew 23:5

- Ø Why are the Pharisees engaging in these religious acts?
(Phylacteries are boxes containing Scripture verses that were worn on the forehead or arm)
- Ø Is there a difference in your mind between religious acts and spiritual acts?
- Ø Religious acts are done for the glory of man but spiritual acts are done for the glory of God.
The religious leaders said all the right words and portrayed the right actions but in their hearts they did not seek to glorify God. Are you glorifying God in everything you do?
Meditate and pray on this statement: "The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him Forever"
(Romans 11:36)

Wednesday - Read Matthew 23:6-7

- Ø Were the Pharisees seeking to win the approval and respect of God or the approval of men?
- Ø 1 Corinthians 10:31 challenges us to honor God in everything we do whether it is eating, working, being a spouse, etc. What areas in your life are you keeping for yourself and not giving the glory to God?
Offer up your life to your Lord today. Renew your commitment to the Kingdom.

Thursday - Read Matthew 23:8-10

- Ø How many Masters, Teachers or spiritual "Fathers" are we to have as Christ followers?
- Ø Are you giving a strong man or woman of God an exalted place in your heart?
- Ø Our pastors and SGM teachers are men and women who have committed their lives to studying and teaching scripture but that does not give any of them an elevated status above any other Christ follower.
If we are all equals then where does that put God?
- Ø We should appreciate what role each member of the "body" of Christ plays but keep the focus on our Father in heaven. Do you know where you fit into serving in your local body of believers? If not meet with a pastor or SGM teacher and find out where you can help.

Friday - Read Matthew 23:11-12

- Ø In your conversations do you spend more time talking about yourself or about God? Maybe that seems unfair but it proves that we have a long way to go in humbling ourselves low enough to see ourselves in light of the cross.
- Ø John 13:4-5; 12-17 shows us an example of Christ teaching his followers how to lead through service. He humbly washed each one of their feet. Have you washed anyone's feet lately? Ever at all?
Maybe it is time that you literally took the time to honor someone who has taken care of you by washing his or her feet. Your teacher or leader is a good person to start with, but please don't feel limited as to the number of people you honor.

Rushing Wind

Rushing wind blow through this temple,
Blowing out the dust within,
Come and breathe your breath upon me,
I've been born again.

Holy Spirit, I surrender, take me where you want to go,
Plant me by your living water,
Plant me deep so I can grow.

Jesus, you're the one, who sets my spirit free,
Use me Lord, glorify, your Holy Name through me.

Separate me from this world Lord.
Sanctify my life for you.
Daily change me to your image,
Help me bear good fruit.

Every day you're drawing closer.
Trials come to test my faith.
But when all is said and done Lord,
You know, it was worth the wait.

Jesus, you're the one, who set my spirit free,
Use me Lord, glorify, your Holy Name through me.
Rushing wind blow through this temple,
Blowing out the dust within,
Come and breathe your breath upon me,
For I've been born again.

REAL LIFE
“Submitting to One Another”
Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28

(Exegetical . . . What it meant to the Philippians/Disciples back THEN)
THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PHILIPPIANS
WERE TO FULFILL PAUL’S JOY,
THE SAME MANNER BY WHICH JESUS MODELED TRUE GREATNESS,
WAS BY SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER,
(DEMONSTRATING CONSIDERATION TO EACH OTHER,
and SERVING OTHERS SACRIFICIALLY).

- I. One Way (Manner) in which the Philippians were to Fulfill Paul's Joy (vs. 2) was by Submitting to One Another, (3).
 - A. One way (manner) in which the Philippians were to Submit to One Another, Fulfilling Paul's joy, was by Doing Nothing in Strife or Conceit.
 - B. Another way (manner) in which the Philippians were to Submit to One Another, Fulfilling Paul's joy, was by Acknowledging Others' Importance.
- II. Another Way (Manner) in which the Philippians were to Fulfill Paul's Joy (vs. 2) was by Demonstrating Consideration to Each Other, (4).
 - A. One way (manner) in which the Philippians were to Demonstrate Consideration to Each Other, Fulfilling Paul's joy, was by Not Considering Their Own "Needs" Only.
 - B. Another way (manner) in, which the Philippians were to Demonstrate Consideration to Each Other, Fulfilling Paul's joy, was by Considering Others' Needs as Well.

[The main verb in this section of Philippians was in verse 2, the imperative: “Fulfill,” which meant, “make complete.” Verse 3 proposed one way for the Philippians to fulfill Paul's joy. The phrase was composed of a noun, “humble-submission,” and the pronoun, “one another.” (The term “humility” connoted “submission” or “abjection,” as in Colossians 2:18.) Verse 4 proposed another way for the Philippians to fulfill Paul's joy: “Look at” or “consider” each other. Note the levels of structure.

The Subject: Fulfill(ing) my joy (followed by the way).
MPI. . . . Submitting to One Another
A. . . . not in strife or conceit,
B. . . . but by acknowledging others.
MPII. . . . Considering Each Other
A. . . . not considering one's own needs,
B. . . . but considering the needs of others.

- III. Jesus' Characterization of True Greatness, which He modeled, in Contrast to His Disciples and the Rulers among the nations, was that the truly Great (Powerful) Used their Positions of Power To Serve Others Sacrificial, (25-28).
 - A. Jesus' Observation to His Disciples regarding holding positions of Power was that, on the one hand, the Rulers (those who held positions of power) of the Nations Exercised their Power Over Others, (25).
 - B. Jesus' Continued Observation to His Disciples regarding holding positions of Power was that, on the other hand, the Disciples did (should) not seek To Exercise Power Over Others, (26a).
 - C. Jesus' Characterization of True Greatness (use of power) was that the Great (those who have power) must become Servants; the Preeminent must become Slaves, (26b-27).
 - D. Jesus' Characterization of His Life, as a model of Greatness, was that He had Come Not To Be Served, but To Serve and To Give Up His Life as a ransom on behalf of Others, (28).

(Theological . . . What it means to believers ALWAYS)
THE MASTER-PLANNED COMMUNITY
SUBMITS TO ONE ANOTHER.

- I. Christ's Master-Planned Community Submits to Others, (Philippians 2:3).
- II. Christ's Master-Planned Community Considers Others, (Philippians 2:4).
- III. Christ's Master-Planned Community Serves Others, (Matthew 20:25-28).

(Pedagogical . . . What it means for us NOW)
USE YOUR POWER LIKE JESUS DID.

- I. Power Reveals and Shapes Character, (Matthew 20:25).
 - A. Power Exposes Values and Motives (for evil or good).
 - B. Power Corrupts the Corruptible (to use and abuse).
 - C. Power Unleashes the Compassionate (to protect and provide).
- II. Everybody has Some Power.
 - A. Abilities and Gifts Empower (intelligence, skill, looks, money).
 - B. Relationships Empower (parent, teacher, boss, seniority).
- III. Submissive, considerate, service is the price you will pay to Reach The Goal.
 - A. Captain John Miller paid the price to save Private Ryan.
 - B. William Wallace freed Scotland.
 - C. Frodo Baggins saved middle earth.
 - D. Christ paid the price to save you.
- IV. Use Your Power Like Jesus Did (to get God glory).
 - A. Use Your Power to Submit to Others, (Philippians 2:3).
 - B. Use Your Power to Consider Others, (Philippians 2:4).
 - C. Use Your Power to Serve Others, (Matthew 20:26-28).