

Respond / Reflect:

How do we live as Christ followers in our society today were certain societal practices, beliefs, or norms don't align with or honor the way God intended?

Some people define work as the "creation of value." If someone asked "What do you do?" what would you say?

Whom do you work for? What are you working for?

What words would you use to describe the relationships between the members of your family?

The communion table is central to our family life as a community of faith. What role did the table play in your family of origin and/or does the table play in your current family?

"Try It!"

Make serving the members of your family and those at your work a priority this week. What act of kindness could you do for your spouse, your parent(s), your sibling(s), your boss / manager, your co-worker(s).

Read through the book of Colossians once a week during this series. Consider using different translations.

Memorize Colossians 3:17:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Father, make us increasingly conscious of your presence in our heart and in your world. Reign in our marriages; reign in our parenting; reign in our working; reign in all our relationships as you reign in your world. May all we do, all we say, and all we think be in the name of Jesus. In the name of the exalted Christ. Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Hospitality

During the month of November, we encourage you to host an outdoor neighborhood fellowship gathering during the afternoon on Sunday, November 21 to foster hospitality ([Romans 12:13](#)) and fellowship within your neighborhood. One simple way you could this is by gathering for cider and doughnut holes around an outdoor firepit in your driveway. Don't want to host alone? Partner with someone else from church or a neighbor in your community to host this fellowship gathering. Please sign up in the back of church if you are planning to participate so that Laura can connect with you for further assistance.

Colossians 3:18-4:1

New International Version

Instructions for Christian Households

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.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, ^[a] do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

⁴ Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Colossians 3:18-4:1

The Message

¹⁸ Wives, understand and support your husbands by submitting to them in ways that honor the Master.

¹⁹ Husbands, go all out in love for your wives. Don't take advantage of them.

²⁰ Children, do what your parents tell you. This delights the Master no end.

²¹ Parents, don't come down too hard on your children or you'll crush their spirits.

²²⁻²⁵ Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you'll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn't cover up bad work.

⁴ And masters, treat your servants considerately. Be fair with them. Don't forget for a minute that you, too, serve a Master—God in heaven.