



GREATER THAN • COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY • COLOSSIANS 3-4

Greater Than Our Relationships

A guided conversation from the August 23, 2026 sermon by Jay Reynardus

SUMMARY

Jay Reynardus opened by naming something most of us feel: every generation invents a new way to build a marriage, raise a child, and survive a job — and each one is offered as the fix for the last disaster before becoming the next one.

Colossians 3:18-4:1 answers with a household rather than a technique. Paul takes the three relationships that shape an ordinary life — marriage, parenting, work — and puts Christ at the centre of each. The goal of marriage is not self-fulfilment but the glory of Christ seen in your spouse. The goal of parenting is not well-mannered children but children pointed to Christ. And work, addressed first to the person with the least power in the room, is service rendered to the Lord himself.

The thread is one sentence: a household does not flourish because the people in it try harder. It flourishes when Christ is at its centre.

PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we have tried to build our homes on our own designs and watched them strain. Be the centre and not a guest. Teach us to serve before we ask to be served, and let the people closest to us see something true. Amen.

START

ICE BREAKER

Jay said every generation comes up with a new way to do family, and every one promises to work. What is one piece of advice about marriage, parenting or work you were given that turned out to be nonsense?

SCRIPTURE

KEY SCRIPTURES

COLOSSIANS 3:18-19 (ESV)

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

COLOSSIANS 3:20-21 (ESV)

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 (ESV)

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

COLOSSIANS 4:1 (ESV)

Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

DISCUSS

DISCUSSION

01 AS IS FITTING IN THE LORD

Read Colossians 3:18-19 aloud. Jay translated the phrase as 'as long as it is proper in the Lord' — meaning there is a line, and refusing what runs against Christ is faithfulness rather than rebellion. Why does Paul address BOTH sides in consecutive breaths? What changes when you read the two verses together instead of one at a time?

02 WHAT YOU YIELD ON

Jay's claim: every relationship involves submitting to someone, so the real question is never whether you yield but what you yield on. Where do you spend your energy on secondary things? What would change if you saved it for what actually matters?

03 THE GOAL

'My goal as a husband has to be the glory of Christ seen in my wife.' Contrast that with going into a relationship looking for self-fulfilment. Be honest as a group: which of the two is closer to how you actually operate?

04 OUTSERVE

Asked the secret to a good marriage, Jay's answer was one word: outserve. Make the bed. Do the dishes. Serve them as though they were Jesus, especially when they are not acting like it. What would that look like in your house this week, concretely?

05 THEY LIVE WITH YOU

On parenting, Jay said the goal is not well-mannered children who stay off drugs but children pointed to Christ — and that children know exactly how much of our faith is real, because they live with us. What is one thing your household would need to change for Jesus to be present Monday through Saturday, not only Sunday?

06 A BETTER FATHER

Some in the room had parents who were the opposite of Colossians 3:21. Jay was direct: that was not God, that was sin — and in Christ you have a true and perfect Father who will not fail you. How does that reframe the baggage someone carries into their own parenting?

07 YOUR MONDAY

Paul speaks to the bondservant first, telling the person with least power that his work matters to God. Brother Lawrence wrote 'make me a saint by getting meals and washing up the plates.' Where is your work currently an idol asking you for things only God can give?

APPLY**THIS WEEK**

Pick one. Do it before you meet again.

- 1 Outserve someone** Pick one person in your household and serve them this week without announcing it and without keeping score. Make the bed. Do the dishes. Jay's one-word answer to the secret of marriage was outserve — try it before you decide whether it works.
- 2 Open the Bible where they can see** Not a devotional app on your phone at 6am. An actual Bible, open, on an ordinary weekday, in the room. Children believe what they watch far more than what they are told.
- 3 Offer one task at work** Before you start it, say quietly that this one is for God. Then do it with the integrity nobody is going to inspect. That is where Brother Lawrence found him — in the noise and clatter of the kitchen.

Come back next week ready to say what happened, not what you intended.

REMEMBER**REMEMBER**

- ▶ Every relationship involves submitting to someone. The question is what you yield on.
- ▶ Your marriage belongs to God — for his glory first, your good second. Do not reverse them.
- ▶ Children believe what they see far more than what they are told.
- ▶ Your work is as important to God as God is important to your work.

How do you husband? It's Jesus. How do you parent? It's Jesus.

PRAYER**CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, it is all yours, it is all through you, and it is all for you. Forgive us for wandering, and draw us close to the Father. Let you be seen in us — in our marriages, with our children, and in the ordinary work of the week. Amen.

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