

The Purpose of Marriage Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Did you watch any part of the recent royal wedding?
2. If you attended a wedding this weekend, would you get out on the dance floor at the reception?

Read the following passage: Read Genesis 1:26-28.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. In your opinion, what are some bad reasons to get married? What are some good reasons to get married?
2. What are some common unspoken expectations that can affect dating or marriage relationships?
3. Genesis 1 indicates that God gave human beings, male and female, a shared mission. How can embracing God's mission together strengthen a marriage? What are some practical ways a married couple might embrace God's mission together?
4. The Scriptures place a high value on bearing children. (See, for example, Genesis 1:28 and Psalm 127.) Why do you think many people today are delaying having children or deciding not to have children altogether? How should we go about making decisions concerning the number of children we have?
5. Read Genesis 2:18-25. God addressed the man's need for peer relationship, help, and partnership through the institution of marriage. Why is friendship such an important foundation in marriage? How should this reality impact the type of spouse a single person might consider? What can a married couple do to strengthen their friendship with each other?
6. Romance and physical intimacy are an important part of the marriage relationship. How should the sanctity and exclusivity of sexual intimacy be guarded during singleness and in marriage? Do you think it is important for a married couple to regularly be physically intimate? Explain. What obstacles might need to be overcome for a married couple to experience healthy romance and intimacy?
7. Read Ephesians 5:25-27. How can our love for one another inspire holiness? What are some ways we may need to follow Christ's example of sacrificial love in our marriages? What should we do when we feel like our spouse is failing us or our family in some way? What are some unhealthy ways of responding?

8. When we are experiencing difficulty in our marriage, what should we do to find hope?
How can we find hope if we have already been through a divorce?
9. What is one thing you can do this week to prepare for a future marriage, strengthen your current marriage, or live in deeper devotion to Christ (if marriage is not a realistic part of your future)?

Pray