

Fall 2017 Community Groups
Discussion Guide
Marriage 2
Ephesians 5:21-35, John 13:34-35



Get To Know You

For the first two weeks of groups, we'll spend some extra time getting to know one another. In order for us to grow together, we need to live life together and learn about each other's lives. Feel free to share at whatever level you're comfortable with!

Alternatively, consider having one or two people in your group share the story of their life.

1. Go around the room and share your name and in one sentence, the best thing that happened this week.
2. What was your favorite song to dance to at your middle/high school dances?
3. What did you wear to your first school dance (that you can remember)?
4. What was your favorite movie in high school?
5. What is one favorite activity from childhood you wish you could do now?
6. If you could ask your parents one question, what would you ask them?

Discussion

Read the passages together. Throughout the semester, we will dig into the passages a bit more and other applicable passages. The goal in the coming weeks will be to learn a bit more how to read the Bible together.

We learned this week that love is a verb (see DC Talk, Free at Last). This isn't new. The love we share with our spouse (also in our other relationships) is more than just the feelings we have for them. Love is the active work we do to put the other in our place. We need to prioritize our spouse's needs and act on it. Then we need to assume that our own self centeredness is the problem.

1. How have you heard this passage misused?
2. How is the husband/wife relationship an image of Christ and the Church?
3. Who in your life has set a good example of a what the husband/wife relationship should be like? What do they do that makes their relationship stand out?
4. How can we support people who are struggling in their relationships?

Application

In this section we are looking for practical applications for how these passages and this message applies to you, but also how it changes what you actually do in the world around you because of it. Be practical in your answers.

1. How did Jesus love us? Practically, what would that look like in your relationships?
2. How can our relationships in our community help with the relationships with our neighbors/coworkers/friends?
3. If you are married, how would it influence the world around you if in your marriage you treated one another the way this passage describes?
4. If you are single, what ways can you support others relationships (married or not) based off of this passage?
5. Based off of this passage, how can we support single people in the world around us, whether they are looking to get into a relationship or not?

At the end of the discussion, read Philippians 2:1-11.

Prayer Time

Set aside 10-15 minutes at the end of tonight's meeting to pray for one another. Pray for each other's relationships and that God would use your relationships to build up each other and the world around us. Consider breaking up into groups of 2-3 people to share and pray with one another.

Challenge

Get together with your spouse or a trusted friend and ask them the following about yourself. Listen with open ears.

- 1) How can I love you better?
- 2) How am I self centered?