

BIG IDEA

What's the secret to making marriage work? WORK!

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

What is the best marriage advice you have ever received? What is the worst advice? This could be a hilarious “ice-breaker” for people who might be new to the group. Have some prepared stories ready to share with the group about the worst marriage advice you’ve ever received. Don’t be afraid to get silly!

Read Mark 10:6-9. What was Jesus’s view on marriage? How is His view different than our society’s view on marriage? How is it similar?

Read Ephesians 5:21-33. If both the husband and the wife applied this passage to their life today what would that marriage look like? In your opinion what does biblical submission mean for the husband? What does it mean for the wife?

What major truths concerning marriage/cohabitation can be pulled from these two passages? Make a list of lessons God is teaching us through His Word.

Here are some truths to get you started:

1. Jesus supported God’s original design for a man and a woman
2. Married people have become “one flesh”
3. We are called to submit to our spouses

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What is your initial reaction to this statistic: People who cohabit have a 75% chance of getting a divorce and a 15% chance of staying together longer than 10 years?

Here’s an article with some interesting statistics on cohabitating and marriage:
<https://www.thespruce.com/cohabitation-facts-and-statistics-2302236>

Have the “You always...”, “You never...”, “You used to...” phrases crept into your relationship with your spouse? How is God leading you to address these symptoms of resentment?

Allow this question to foster transparency and honesty in the group about their own marriage. This is the time to get personal and lean into people’s lives. Make a covenant with the group that the information shared will not be talked about outside of group time and that everyone is in a safe place to share their struggles.





LIFE GROUPS

SERMON COMPANION

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What stands out to you about Paul's description of love? How might this description apply to marriage?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

What can you do on a regular basis to work on your marriage? If you're cohabitating, what steps can you take today to move closer to legally committing to your partner?

Reread Ephesians 5:21-33. How will you practice biblical submission this week? Make a list of ways you could sacrifice for your spouse.

How different would your marriage look if both parties treated it like a "submission competition"?

[Present a "new bliss" picture to the group of what their marriage could look like if we apply biblical principles and practices to our lives.](#)

