

Love Worth Fighting For: God's Design for Marriage and Relationships

Small Group Discussion Questions

"The world says marriage is about finding the right person. The Bible says marriage is about becoming the right person." How have you seen the culture's view of marriage shape your own expectations — even subtly?

"Way too many times we look at what the other person is supposed to do. Today focus on what God has called YOU to do." Why is it so natural to focus on our spouse's responsibilities instead of our own?

When you think of the word "submit", what comes to mind? Why does that word seem to be offensive to some people.

The word "submit" (Greek: hypotassō) is described as a military term meaning "to arrange under." It's "not about worth — it's about order." How does understanding the actual meaning of this word change the way you hear the command in Ephesians 5:22-24?

Submission is "a voluntary act of the will" rooted in devotion to Christ, not in a husband's worthiness. Why is that distinction important? How does it change the nature of the command?

For husbands, the standard for love is the cross — Christ didn't give the church a list of demands; He got off His throne and died. What does sacrificial love look like practically in everyday married life?

1 Peter 3:7, warns husbands that mistreating their wives will hinder their prayers. Why do you think God connects the horizontal relationship of marriage so directly to the vertical relationship with Him?

The pastor gives husbands three assignments: pray with your wife, date your wife, and be humble even when you're right. Which of these three is most challenging for you (or for husbands you know), and why?

The sermon outlines three building blocks: leave, cleave, and weave. How have you seen the "leaving" part — shifting primary loyalty to your spouse — become a struggle in real marriages? What makes it hard?

The Hebrew word "dabaq" (joined) means "to be glued together" — bonded so tightly that separating destroys both. In a culture that treats marriage as disposable, what does it practically look like to "cleave" to your spouse through difficult seasons?

James 1:19 says, "Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to get angry." The pastor says if you applied just that one verse to your marriage, it would transform everything. Which of those three — listening, speaking, or anger — is the hardest for you?

The sermon says, "Your life is a sermon" — the way you treat your spouse preaches the gospel louder than words. What message is your marriage currently preaching to the people around you?

The pastor gives couples three shared assignments for the week: pray together every night, have a real conversation about each other (not logistics), and read one chapter of the Bible together. Which of these feels most natural to you, and which feels most intimidating? Why?