

Growth Group Discussion Questions
Series: “Refocusing On Your Family”- Part 1”
“Remembering Why We Said We Do”
Week of April 11, 2021

Message Summary: WOW, Easter was a great celebration this year! What a difference a year makes. How good to be together to celebrate the big day... and rejoice: “Jesus, not dead!” Resurrection Sunday!

But this week, we move to a new focus... as we “Refocus on Your Family”! And we looked at the 6 basic values that inform us of what God made marriage to accomplish. Marriage was His idea. What defines marriage is very important considering what marriage represents. But, in the busy-ness of life, it’s easy to forget or move past the “basics of marriage” and be more focused on the “basics of survival” in a marriage!

My hope is we’ll discover that more is at stake with marriage and we’ll encourage ourselves and our kids in what matters most in marriage. And we’ll encourage our married friends as they move through their lives, as well. That’s what disciples of Jesus do. We live it out and provide a living example of what God’s truth looks like, in action! So let’s dive into our session!

ICE BREAKER

1. Discuss ways in which marriage has a positive impact on the surrounding society and culture.

GOING DEEPER

1. Read the following passages and discuss the questions below.

Galatians 5:22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- a. We talked about kindness as an essential, definable ingredient of a loving marriage relationship. Discuss what kindness means and how you recognize it in action.
- b. Looking at Gal. 5:22-23, how do Jesus followers obtain their resource of kindness? What factors keep my life “filled” with the spirit of God?

- c. Staying kind to your mate and friends faces a number of hurdles that can prevent you and me from showing it on a regular basis. Discuss the “hurdles” or obstacles to sustaining kindness coming from you.
- d. Look at Galatians 5:16 & Ephesians 5:18 below.

Gal. 5:16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Eph. 5:18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

Q: With the verses above in mind, what is involved in being “controlled” or obedient to Jesus (filled with the Holy Spirit) that lets the Holy Spirit guide your life and responses, like our desire/need to show kindness?

2. We looked at one of the **Marriage Basics...** that God created marriage for the perfection of our character (which likely goes to heaven with us)! Not only do marriage partners help perfect our character but close relationships help shape character too. Look at the follow passage and discuss the questions below:

Philippians 2:3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. 4 Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing.

- a. Selfishness is a personal enemy of every one of us. Discuss what's at the root of selfishness.
- b. Controlling behavior most often stems from selfishness. Discuss why being controlling is so negative in marriage and in friendships.
- c. When it comes to kindness and non-controlling behavior, what's in it for us?