

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Kings 21:1-29.

This passage tells the story of how Jezebel and her husband Ahab had Naboth killed so they could take his vineyard. The type of unhealthy marriage that Ahab and Jezebel had in this passage serves as an example of a husband who is passive and a wife that is controlling.

- What types of attitudes or circumstances can cause us to become passive not just in our relationships with others, but in our relationship with God as well?
- How have you seen passivity weaken a relationship? What types of experiences have you had with passivity?
- Ahab's and Jezebel's character flaws were a reflection of their own insecurities. How have you seen your own insecurities negatively affect your relationships?
- Jezebel controlled Ahab by belittling him with her words. What kinds of words would help you feel more able to maintain a healthy relationship? How can you strive to speak positively in your own relationships?
- What types of controlling behaviors have you seen damage your relationships or the relationships of others? If this is something you struggle with, what might be the source of your controlling tendencies?
- How can we be effective leaders in our lives and in our relationships without being overbearing or controlling?
- Describe a time when God held you accountable for a sin that you committed. What did you learn from this situation?
- What changes do you need to make that will allow you to step into the role that God created you to fill as a man or a woman?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you have a stronger marriage or prepare for a marriage that honors God.

Spend time reading 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 each day and then reciting it aloud. As you recite these verses about what God's kind of love is like, insert your name into this passage. If you are married, recite this passage with your spouse and discuss the traits of love you do well and those you need to work on.

Take time to do a self assessment of your behavior to determine if you are either too passive or too controlling in your relationships. Spend time in prayer asking God to help you change your heart and improve these behaviors. If you are married, discuss with your spouse how you both can work together to break this cycle.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations both in person and online:

- Have an honest conversation with God about passivity in your life. Ask Him to help remove your passivity.
- Pray and ask God to help you stop speaking any harmful or negative words in your relationships.
- Pray and ask God to enable you to be a better leader in all areas of your life including your relationships.
- Thank God for the relationships He has given you. Ask Him to help you make each of them the best they can be.
- Ask God to remove any controlling behavior that you may be exhibiting in your life. Allow God to be the one in control.
- Pray for your spouse. If you aren't married, pray for your future spouse or seek direction from God about His plans for your future relationships.