

Small Group Guide: Prioritizing Marriage

Opening Question: What was the most entertaining television show or movie that you and your spouse (or a friend or “significant other”) have binge-watched together, and why did you both enjoy it?

Opening Prayer: *Dear God, we thank you for this opportunity to gather together and discuss the message we heard from Pastor Dan. As we dive into your word and explore the concept of love as an action, we ask for open hearts and minds. Help us to learn more about how to apply these truths to our relationships and lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

Key Takeaways:

1. Love in marriage should be seen as a verb, an action, rather than just an emotion.
2. We need to prioritize our spouse by putting their needs and interests first, reflecting the humility and sacrifice of Christ.
3. Humility in relationships involves valuing the other person as more important than oneself.
4. Biblical love calls us to act selflessly, much like Christ's sacrificial love for us.
5. Despite the risks, there is great reward in forming relationships based on Christ-like love and action.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read John 13:34.** In this passage, Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us. How can we model this love in our marriages or close relationships?
2. **Read Philippians 2:3.** What are some practical steps we can take to eliminate selfish ambition and vain conceit from our relationships?
3. **Read Philippians 2:3-4.** How does humility, as explained in Philippians 2:3-4, challenge our stereotypes or preconceived notions about marriage and relationships?
4. Consider Pastor Dan's message about marriage being a team sport. How can this perspective transform our approach to resolving conflicts within a relationship?
5. In what ways can the teaching "love is an action" redefine the way you respond to your spouse or friend's needs?
6. Pastor Dan mentioned prioritizing your spouse and avoiding marital drift. How can we actively counteract the drift of life's busyness in our relationships?
7. Reflect on the example of Christ's humility and service. How can you incorporate these qualities into your daily interactions with loved ones?

Practical Applications:

1. Set aside dedicated time each week to intentionally focus on your spouse or close relationships, aiming to understand their needs and interests better.
2. Write down three things you admire about your partner or a close friend and share these with them over the next few days.
3. If comfortable, engage in a common activity or hobby of your partner as a means to show interest and support.
4. Reflect and pray on areas where you may need to exhibit more humility and place others' needs before your own, seeking guidance on how to act.
5. Find one way this week to serve your partner or community selflessly, reflecting Christ's love through your actions.

Closing Prayer: *Lord, we thank you for the truths we've explored today and for the example of love you have set for us through Jesus. Help us to carry what we've learned into our relationships, serving each other with love and humility. May our actions reflect your love, and may you guide us as we grow closer to you and those around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*