

LOVE — AND — MARRIAGE

September 30

Making Promises

Community Group Discussion Guide

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/283051483/bfcd2e62a2>

WELCOME

As you welcome everyone, please take a few moments to re-emphasize the need for community and that this is a place for us to grow together. This is not a place for perfect people but a place to learn about how Jesus wants to transform our lives and our relationships. Please acknowledge that while love and marriage can sometime be a difficult subject to discuss, as it is personal, we were designed to help each other grow no matter what our relationship status may look like.

STARTER

What are some of the life lessons that your relationships have taught you?

INTRODUCING THE VIDEO

As we begin to use the videos for discussion at our groups, please take a few moments to introduce them, by acknowledging that while we are discussing marriage there is great truth for those that are single and/or dating as well. If it helps, encourage people to take notes during the video discussion and to “answer” the questions that are being asked in the video.

VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (from The Meaning of Marriage Study Guide)

Please feel free to use these as necessary as the flow of the conversation unfolds.

In the video, they discussed the difference between a contract and a covenant. In your opinion, which is the view of the greater culture? How can we tell?

Tim explained three things that should be on everyone’s list of desired traits in a spouse:

- a. A common worldview: What do we think human beings are for? How do we decide right and wrong? When we die, what happens?
- b. Ability to solve problems: How do we solve problems? Do we “fight well”?
- c. Shared mythos: Do we share a “secret thread” of things that move us deeply and fill us with joy?

What is your reaction to this list? How does one discover these traits in another person?

Sam asked, “What makes the Christian vows unique?” This is a very reasonable and practical question that anyone — Christian or otherwise — should ask. What was helpful in the video responses? How would you answer Sam’s question?

God describes his relationship with his people through the term “covenant,” as seen in passages such as Genesis 17:3 – 7 and Ezekiel 37:26 – 28. Using these two passages, describe what God means by the word “covenant” when using it to talk about his relationship to his people.

Genesis 2:22 – 25 and Malachi 2:14 are two Scripture passages that depict marriage as a covenant. The Genesis passage describes it and the Malachi passage labels it. Based on what “covenant” means in the Bible, what does it mean for God to use the word to define marriage?

TAKING WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING WITH YOU

We have spent time discussing tonight both God’s covenant with mankind and how the covenant of marriage illustrates the Gospel. How does the reality of these covenantal relationships shape our lives? (For example, the fact that God loves us before we were born is an example of his promising kind of love.)