

LOVE — AND — MARRIAGE

October 28

Understanding the Purpose

Community Group Discussion Guide

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/283065668/33e6968db0>

WELCOME

Please welcome everyone to the group, cover any group announcements, and thank everyone for coming out and making community group a priority.

STARTER

As we wrap things up, we have talked about God's design for love, marriage, singleness, sex, but what is marriage for? As we seek to answer, "What is marriage for?" some other questions that go along with this are, "What do you believe marriage is for?" "What have others told you marriage is for?" or "What is a "successful" marriage?"

INTRODUCING THE VIDEO

As we begin to use the videos for discussion at our groups, please take a few moments to introduce them. 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.

There were many important ideas were brought up in the video. Which one stood out to you and why?"

Though it is common for people to talk about physical chemistry, in the video Tina named friendship as a type of chemistry as well. What makes friendship so much more powerful of a foundation to build a marriage on than the experience of physical chemistry?

In the video as well as the book, the phrase "great horizon" was used to describe our view of the future person God is making your spouse into. How could this idea of looking toward your spouse's "great horizon" change the way you look at your spouse today? If you are single but want to be married, how does this change the way you look for a spouse?

Read Ephesians 5:25–27. How does Paul paint a picture of the purpose of marriage?

In the verses read above the apostle Paul connects the sanctification effect of the gospel (the "chiseling away" to become more like Jesus) to the mission of marriage. This mission, especially for the husband, is to love his wife in such a way that it makes her more beautiful and holy over time. Have you ever seen this kind of love modeled? If so, how?

In the video, Tim and Kathy as well as Katherine and John shared how they have changed for the better in the course of their marriages. What are some ways your marriage has changed you for the better? If you are single, what are some ways that very close friends have helped you change for the better?

As you think about these past six sessions, what big ideas are sticking with you? Why?

TAKING WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING WITH YOU

In wrapping up this series, please take a few moments to have people get in smaller groups of 4-5 and have them share what one or two action steps that they can take away from this series and then pray for one another that we would have boldness to take the action steps we feel God is leading us to take.