

Harvest Bible Chapel
Small Group Questions
September 13, 2009

What is Marriage?

Note: Recognize not everyone in your group is married. Be sure to communicate the value that singles have and include them in your discussion.

1. Take time to quote the definition of marriage used in Sunday's message several times as a group.

- Marriage is a holy covenant ♦ initiated by God ♦ and conditioned on an irrevocable promise ♦ to pursue oneness ♦ with an imperfect person ♦ of the opposite sex ♦ for a lifetime ♦ for the glory of God.

Give a prize to the first person who can say it perfectly without looking.

2. Read Psalm 127.

- How does the Lord build homes differently than men?
- Have you ever felt your best efforts to build your marriage and home were in vain? Was it because you had left out God?
- In what ways have you not followed God's blueprint for homebuilding?

3. Read Malachi 2:13-16.

- How is God a "witness" to our marriages? How does this affect our relationships?
- How is a covenant different than a contract? What other covenants are mentioned in the Bible? How seriously does God take covenants?
- What does God give to marriage to help ensure oneness? How has the Spirit helped you in your union?
- What is God seeking from marriage? Is he getting it?
- How do you guard yourself from faithlessness in marriage?

4. Do you remember your wedding vows? Did anyone in your group write their own wedding vows? What did they say? Have you been faithful to your wedding vows? Remember it's an irrevocable promise.

5. Read Colossians 3:12-14. On a scale of 1 to 5, how are you doing in your responding to the imperfections of your spouse displayed in the following qualities.

- Compassionate heart _____
- Kindness _____
- Humility _____
- Meekness _____
- Patience _____
- Forbearing _____
- Forgiving _____
- Love _____

What is the motivation for forbearing and forgiving for a Christian?

6. Have you told your spouse, "I will never ever divorce you."? (*In case you forgot, that was what "...till death do us part" meant in your wedding vows.*) If you have not said it lately, do it again?