



Because the focus of this study is marriage, it is important to remember not everyone in your small group is married. Be sensitive to this reality and adapt your discussion to include those who are single.

1. My marriage is being minimized.

With rare exceptions, every marriage problem is a spiritual problem that can be corrected by improving your vertical relationship with God. How do the following spiritual problems affect marriage?

- Idolatry
- Materialism
- Covetousness
- Lust
- Pride
- Bitterness
- Unbelief
- Slothfulness

The Pharisees asked the wrong question to Jesus for the wrong reason. Do you believe our culture still cares about how Jesus answers to questions about marriage?

Asking Jesus "Is it lawful..." reveals a fundamental flaw in most marriages. They thought of marriages as a performance-based relationship. How does a performance-based relationship make you scorekeeper in marriage? How would a marriage change if a couple would replace a performance-based relationship with a grace-based relationship?

Can you point out the flaws in this definition of marriage? Marriage is the union of two people who commit to romantically loving and caring for each other and sharing the burdens of domestic life. It is conditioned on the feelings the couple has for one another. How does this definition change the culture if widely embraced?

Has the current state of marriage in our culture made you cynical about the institution of marriage?

2. My marriage has a Maker.

Marriage is designed by God and defined by God.

Do you believe the creation story as recorded in Genesis is literally true? Jesus did. How does rejection the creation story in favor of evolution theory erode the biblical definition of marriage?

Marriage is recognized and regulated by the laws of people who invite God's blessing.

Read Hebrews 13:4.

Are the following attributes of God reflected in your marriage?

- Love
- Forgiveness
- Pursuit
- Patience
- Sacrifice





SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

3. My marriage needs the right motivation.

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

Which of the following superficial motivations for marriage have affected you?

- Escaping a bad family of origin
- Intense emotional feelings
- Sexual attraction or involvement
- Cultural or family pressures

How does a continual collision with theological truth keep you from begin absorbed by the culture? What will happen if you don't intentionally expose your mind to truth?

Marriage is far too significant to give up on. What will be your motivation for pursuing or remaining in marriage when it is difficult?

Additional Scripture

Hebrews 13:4

Genesis 1:26-28

