



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, widowed, divorced, or remarried.

Oneness doesn't mean complete agreement as a couple all the time. Oneness means that you are moving in the same direction, sharing the same experiences, share the same values, carrying the load together, and worshipping the same God.

God's plan for oneness in marriage has involves three choices.

1. Leave: Break past dependencies.

One of the greatest hindrances to couples achieving oneness in marriage is the failure to establish independence from their parents. In-laws become outlaws when the parent-child relationship continues to take priority over the husband-wife.

Is your attachment in any of these areas hindering your oneness in marriage?

- Financial dependence on parents
- Emotional dependence on parents
- Siding with your parents or your children or step children versus spouse
- Prioritizing the needs of children above your mate
- Past romantic relationship or former spouse
- Friendships
- Hobbies
- Career goals or business travel

Choosing to operate as one in the most practical areas of life builds oneness. Consider the following areas where two should become one? Which of these activities should you incorporate to improve your oneness?

- Do you share one checking account?
- Do you budget your monthly expense together?
- Do you share one bedroom and one bed?
- Do you go to bed at the same time?
- Do you have one mind in your approach to child discipline?
- Do you pray together daily?
- Do you have a weekly date where you talk as one?
- Do you enjoy entertainment and recreation as one?
- Do you share mutual friendship with other couples?
- Do you worship and serve the Lord as one?

2. Cleave: Receive your spouse as God's perfect gift for you?

Read Genesis 2:19-25. Choosing to receive your spouse as Adam chose to receive Eve is a foundational principle for oneness. It is not a one-time choice. It must be done everyday, especially when your spouse's difference or weaknesses would naturally push you away.





SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

God had to convince Adam of his need for help and companionship by naming all the animals. What has God done to convince you of how much you need help? Does an independent spirit cause you to sometimes forget how much you need your spouse?

Describe what you feel when you are away from your spouse for an extended period of time.

How does your spouse compliment you? Where is he/she strong where you are weak? Where are you strong where he/she is weak?

Receiving your spouse should never be based on their performance. but rather upon the character and goodness of God; the one who sent us our spouse. How does confidence in God's goodness motivate you to pursue oneness with an imperfect spouse?

The alternative to receiving your spouse is clinging to your individualism and trying to meet your need for companionship in a God-forbidden way. When you are not one with your mate, what do you turn to in an attempt to meet your need for companionship?

Read James 1:17. Take time everyday to thank the Father for the gift of your spouse.

Singles and couples: Don't let all this talk about needing to receive a spouse misleading you. No other human can meet your deepest needs. The gospel teaches us that only God can meet the deepest longings of our hearts. Don't look to marriage to accomplish something God never intended it to accomplish. You will be sadly disappointed if you're looking to your spouse to fix the loneliness of your soul.

Weave: God uses the relentless pursuit of oneness with an imperfect spouse to force me to face the imperfections still in me.

Make a list of ways you and your spouse are alike. Make a list of ways you and your spouse are different. Which list is longer? Which list has a greater potential to help you face your imperfections?

3. Weaving occurs when you begin to see part of your spouse showing up in you and part of you showing up in your spouse. How have you seen this happen to you and your spouse?

Discuss this statement. "What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?" How does this statement challenge your presumptions about marriage?

How has God used your spouse to expose sin your own heart? How has God used your spouse to make you more holy?

Additional Scripture

James 1:17

1Cor. 6:16

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Malachi 2:14-16

