

FIGHT



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

A perfect marriage isn't possible, but a great marriage is. A great marriage looks like a husband loving his wife as himself, and a wife respecting her husband. A great marriage will sometimes feel like a battle, but it's definitely worth the fight.

Discussion Questions

1. Most all of us have been touched personally by failed a marriage – personal divorce, divorced parents, other family members, coworkers, neighbors, or friends. Read John 10:10. What tactics have you seen Satan use to steal the love, joy, and respect out of marriage relationships?

Our natural tendency is to be “me-centered.” How does this tendency lead us to create unrealistic expectations for others? Read Psalm 62:1-2. In a marriage, how should a God-centered person respond when expectations aren't met?

2. Great marriages require an investment of time and focus. What are some specific investments of time you believe are critical in a great marriage relationship? Why do these investments make a difference?

The proper order for marriage is God first, spouse second, and everything else third. Share an example of someone you know who has gotten this right. Why is it important to get this order prioritized correctly?

3. Former President, Ronald Reagan said, “Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.” Why is it so important that husbands and wives learn and commit to “fight well?”

Read James 1:19. This passage lists some ground rules married couples must have when faced with conflict. What are some other ground rules husbands and wives should have in place to make sure they fight well?

4. Marriages are under attack. As believers in Christ, our responsibility is to be ready to fight for the kinds of marriage that God desires. What is at stake if Christian couples don't fight for a great marriage?

Small Group Questions Continued

Marrieds: What specific steps will you take toward...
...becoming a God-centered spouse?
...investing time and focus into your marriage?
...creating ground rules to ensure fighting well?

Unmarrieds: After listening to a talk on how to have a great marriage, what specific steps will you take toward becoming a God-centered spouse who will fight for a great marriage?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

OUR CHURCH

Ask your small group leader about serving opportunities at Emmanuel. We need help with the host team, Children's Ministry, production team and Student Ministry teams.

OUR COMMUNITY

Prepare lunch for volunteers building a house with Habitat for Humanity on October 14. Contact Jim Gearries at jgearries@eclife.org

OUR WORLD

Collect “dorm type items” for Hope Road Nicaragua that will be given to students living in Nicaragua the week of October 16-23. Drop these items off at the Info Desk. Would you also commit to praying for the members going, the communities they will be serving, and all the people they will encounter!

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____
_____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are
_____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for: