



Week 2 Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

In our second week of this series, Jeremy introduced his sermon by talking about how popular culture views love and marriage. He has also referenced songs and other things in our lives that have shaped our views.

Consider romance novels, romantic movies, and current magazine articles on marriage. How does our culture view marriage? What does our culture tell us is the purpose of marriage?

What does our culture think brings about marital fulfillment? What is the difference between a marriage based on romance and a marriage based on commitment?

What do you see as the purpose of marriage? How can knowing your purpose in marriage help your marriage relationship?

How can the marriage relationship help to make us holy and glorify God?

Into the Word:

Read Romans 12.

In his message, Jeremy said that first and foremost when it comes to marriage, one is to give power and authority over to each other out of reverence for Christ. Basically, that is what Jesus wants for all relationships.

Honoring your spouse's needs before your own and having a desire to serve him/her out of love and devotion is essential to a healthy marriage. This same attitude of service learned in marriage can be used by God to train us to serve others. God uses experiences, including pain and suffering in our lives and in our marriages, to help others.

Romans 12:1 says offering our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, is a spiritual act of worship. How can serving your spouse be an act of worship to God?

Paul warns us in Romans to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought. He then reminds us that we each have different gifts and functions in the body of Christ. Jeremy gave us this same warning, He said that there should be mutual submission. Each partner brings a vital piece that the other one can not bring to a marriage.

How can pride make serving your spouse difficult?

How does God use your different gifts to strengthen your marriage? How can having different gifts cause trouble in a marriage? How can we blend our talents, abilities, and gifts to serve God and others?

According to Romans 12:9–21, how should we love and serve the people around us, including our spouse?

How should knowing your marriage has a purpose (to serve and glorify God) strengthen your marriage? How should it affect your relationship with your spouse? Your daily decisions?

What are some practical ways you and your spouse can minister together?

Apply The Word

How can your marriage relationship be used to make you more like Christ? What should this look like practically? What characteristics did Christ exhibit that should be present in your marriage?