

Small Group Study

The Gift of Relationships: Relational Glue

by Megan Wiest

Events Coming Up

Alpha: Alpha is a safe place to probe for answers to life's tough questions in a relaxed, non-threatening, no-pressure environment. At each meeting we will share a free meal, watch a brief video teaching, and then have the opportunity to meet in small discussion groups. Starts Tuesday, Feb. 9th (6:30-8:30pm). The first meal is from Cascone's so don't miss it. Childcare provided. Sign up online at vineyardkcnorth.com.

Sharing Christ: Starts Monday, Feb. 15th (6:30-8pm). Learn how to share Christ with all kinds of people--from the Muslim to the Agnostic, from the Asian to the Hispanic--just about anyone you'll ever meet. Childcare provided. Sign up online at vineyardkcnorth.com.

Celebration of Discipline: Starts Thursday, Feb 18th (6:30-8pm). Start growing spiritually by learning the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, study, meditation, etc. Childcare provided. Sign up online at vineyardkcnorth.com.

Scripture

Ephesians 5:21-33 *21 And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the body, the church he gave his life to be her Savior. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything. 25 And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. 29 No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for this body, which is the church. 30 And we are his body. 31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife and the two are united into one. 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33 So again I say each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

Ice Breakers: Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. What are your expectations for a marriage?
2. What do feel your role should be in a marriage?
3. How do you think our culture views marriage?

Introduction

This week we are continuing our series, "The Gift of Relationships," and we are discussing today Relational Glue.

We all know the typical love story; boy meets girl, they fall in love, get married and live happily ever after. However, with 50% of all marriages (including Christians) ending in divorce, one has to ask the question, is love not enough to sustain a marriage? God created marriage and only He can hold it together. Many people live in the same home and share a joint checking account, but don't have a clue about the true covenant of marriage. Marriage, as the institution and wonderful mystery God created, cannot exist nor be held together without Him.

Questions

1. Paul begins with a discussion of “submission.” How do *you* define submission? How does our culture view submission?
2. The attitude of all Christians is to be submissive to one other (Ephesians 5:21). How do we submit to one another? What do you think the world would look like if we all did this?
3. What do you think Paul is saying when he says that a husband should love his wife as he loves himself?
4. What do you think the sacrificial love of a husband should look like in a marriage? What do you think the respect of a wife should look like in a marriage?
5. Why do you think we hear more about love in a marriage today than respect?
6. What qualities of Christ’s relationship with the church do you think should be seen and demonstrated in a Christian marriage? What gets in the way of this demonstration?
7. If you are married, what part of your marriage has been hard to submit to this teaching? Why has it been hard?
8. What practical things could you do to grow in these areas?