Marriage Enrichment



Lesson Topic: Other Relationships

Week One Homework

**Scripture Memory Verse:** “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3 ESV)

**In the Word Together:**

Read and discuss the following verses with your spouse:

What do the following verses tell you about the actions and attitudes you are called to have in regards to your relationship with your spouse and others?

* Romans 12:2
* Philippians 2: 3-4

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**Let’s Talk About It Together:**

Discuss the following questions with your spouse and write down your shared responses.

We will be discussing questions 1-2 during discussion time and question 3 during breakout time. Please remember that transparency and openness in your marriage is developed by creating a safe place for your spouse to express his/her thoughts. This is especially important when talking about potentially emotional issues – such as parents and in-laws.

1. You are called to leave our parents and cleave to your spouse yet you are also taught throughout the bible to honor your parents. It can be viewed that there is a tension here but the conflict can be resolved. You learned in Large Group that there are several ways that you can honor your parents after you are married:

* Spending time with them as you both agree
* Remembering special events
* Communicating gratefulness (gifts, cards, notes)
* Ask for wisdom / counsel
* Let them influence your kids

1. In what ways have you been able to honor (different than obeying) your parents together while leaving them and cleaving to your spouse?

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1. In what ways has this been easy or hard?

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1. In what ways do you plan to grow in honoring your parents based on what you learned?

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1. Leaving your parents and cleaving to your spouse can be an adjustment period. Your parents were the key role of influence in your lives for many years and shifting that allegiance to your spouse as the most important person in our life can take some time. Your allegiance must first be to God and then your spouse before anyone else. You learned in large group that there are attitudes about your parents that can deter or even tear apart the oneness in your marriage. What are the areas that you as a couple need to work on in your marriage as far as…?
2. Parents becoming my sounding board (going to them first for advice, before I talk about it with my spouse or especially if I talk about my spouse to my parents).

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1. Parents being more influential than my spouse (emotional attachment, when my parents’ opinions matter more than spouse’s opinions)

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1. Parents allowed to put down my spouse or talk negatively about him/her. Or, even me talking negatively about my spouse to my parents.

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1. Parents allowed to hold my allegiance over my spouse (time, focus, energy, decisions).

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1. Severing the cord of dependence on my parents - financial or other dependence.

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1. **Ask each other the following questions**:
2. Is there something that I can do to help make your relationship with my parents or other family members even better than it is?

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1. Is there something that I can do to make my relationship with your parents or other family members even better than it is?

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1. Is there anything that I can do to change my relationship with my parents, other family members or friends to reinforce the fact that you are the most important person in my life?

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**Breakout Time – Please come prepared to talk about the following:**

1. Following up from your goals from last month, what have you done to come together more in your marriage in regards to Finances?

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1. What has the Lord taught you in your personal times with him this past week? What are you reading and how many days were you in the word and prayer?

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1. Which one of the five “areas” of Leaving and Cleaving noted in Question #2 is the most challenging for you to come together in oneness with your spouse and why?

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1. Share your spouse’s answer to Question 3c. What will you commit to doing to improve the oneness in your marriage in regards to this relationship with a family member of friend?

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1. What is the Lord leading you to pray about this week specifically in regards to any “other relationships” you have that have the potential to disrupt the oneness in your marriage?

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1. **To prepare for next week**, please think and pray about what relationship is the most threatening to the oneness in your marriage? Why? How do you think that you may perhaps be sinning against or hurting your spouse as far as any relationships you have with other family & friends? We will discuss these points more deeply in breakout time next week.