

LOVE — AND — MARRIAGE

October 7

Embracing the Other

Community Group Discussion Guide

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/283053165/4bb271c811>

WELCOME

As you welcome everyone, please take a few moments to re-emphasize the need for community and that this is a place for us to grow together. This is not a place for perfect people but a place to learn about how Jesus wants to transform our lives and our relationships. Please acknowledge that while love and marriage can sometime be a difficult subject to discuss, as it is personal, we were designed to help each other grow no matter what our relationship status may look like.

STARTER

This session will dive into gender roles in marriage and the concept of mutual submission between spouses. Think back to your childhood. What roles did your mom play? What roles did your dad play? If one or both were not in the picture, who played what roles in your home life?

INTRODUCING THE VIDEO

As we begin to use the videos for discussion at our groups, please take a few moments to introduce them, by acknowledging that while we are discussing marriage there is great truth for those that are single and/or dating as well. If it helps, encourage people to take notes during the video discussion and to “answer” the questions that are being asked in the video.

VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (from The Meaning of Marriage Study Guide)

Please feel free to use these as necessary as the flow of the conversation unfolds.

What comment or thought from the video did you think was helpful in clarifying the biblical understanding of gender roles in marriage? Were there surprises?

This session asserted that the Bible is clear that men and women are of equal value and glory and have different roles (leader and helper), yet the Bible doesn't say what specific tasks, skills, or temperaments belong to each of those roles. How does this challenge the way you've observed and/or approached marriage to this point?"

In the video and in the reading, the idea was proposed that both spouses get to play “Jesus roles.” That is, each spouse reflects the person and work of Jesus in unique ways through the roles they are designed to play. If both roles are primarily designed to reflect Christ, then both must hold equal value in the marriage. This idea came from a comparison of our anchor passage in this study, Ephesians 5:22 – 33, with Philippians 2:5 – 11. In Ephesians 5:22-33, how is the husband's role as leader in the marriage a “Jesus role”? In Philippians 2:5-11, how is the wife's role in submission to her husband a “Jesus role”?

In your own words, explain the concept of “mutual submission” and why it’s so important to a healthy “gospel reenactment” in marriage. What are some ways to seek accountability and learn communally on doing mutual submission and gospel reenactment well?

How might God be calling you to embrace your gender role as a way of becoming the person God wants you to be, even if it is uncomfortable for you?

As Steve mentioned in the video, gender roles certainly seem irrelevant to the single person. But in what ways is it helpful in everyday life for a single person to understand gender roles? Along the lines of Tina’s example, in what ways can single men and women honor one another in community?

TAKING WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING WITH YOU

As we have discussed the biblical understanding of gender roles in marriage, we find that it lays out the principles and give us the space to fill in the details. As we fill in these details, this also intersects with the grace of God. In our own lives, what are some areas of growth for us to embrace our gender roles? For those that are married, what areas must we practice to better embrace our spouse?