



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of February 12, 2024

1. Marriage has gone off the rails in modern America. Secular people are totally re-writing the definitions and re-imagining the practice in ways that are far from the Bible. Discuss the following modern ideas on marriage and unpack them in your own words. Which of these popular ideas have you observed in people you know?
 - **A cost-saving measure.** *(to save on taxes and living expenses)*
 - **A sociological next-step after living together.** *(people just expect it)*
 - **A legal union of any two adults.** *(man/woman; woman/woman; man/man)*
 - **An open relationship among willing partners.** *(share love with whoever makes you happy)*
 - **A romantic contract that dissolves when love fades.** *(we don't love each other anymore)*
2. Read Genesis 2:20-25. Who was the original designer and overseer of marriage? What essentials or basic components do you see hard-wired into marriage from the very beginning? What does “one flesh” signify?
3. Religious leaders tried to trap Jesus with questions about marriage and divorce. What was Jesus’ reply in Matthew 19:1-6? How would you explain to someone that marriage is supposed to be a monogamous, committed relationship between one man and one woman for a lifetime?
4. There is much misunderstanding about the unique “roles” that God has designed for husbands and wives. Husbands and wives are equal as created beings, equal in salvation, and equally valuable in the Church. Read Ephesians 5:21-30 and discuss your answers to the following questions about roles:
 - What is the overarching attitude that is called for in all Christians (verse 21)?
 - What responsibilities are given to believing wives?
 - What responsibilities are given to believing husbands?
 - How does Jesus factor into the responsibilities of both husband and wife?
5. Why should Christians care about having healthy, God-honoring marriages? What spiritual realities are at stake? (see Eph. 5:30; 32)
6. Pastor Ryan closed the message with 4 “flight tips” that can keep marriages airborne and avoiding ugly crashes. Discuss each one and give practical, everyday ideas how to put them into practice:
 - a. *Lean into God’s Word.*
 - b. *Listen to your spouse.*
 - c. *Learn to “give” rather than “get”.*
 - d. *Love from your core commitment.*