

it's complicated!

February 12/2017 Sermon

Week 2 Leader Guide

Leader Tips:

- Need to have 2 shoes with shoelaces for the warm up section
- Please make 3 copies of this curriculum for a gender based discussion
- Be sensitive to the single people in your group and encourage them to share their unique insights into these discussions on marriage
- Leave enough time to end the meeting with the Digging Deeper section

the win

The wives in the group will identify the value of their role as a helper and encourager by giving her husband the respect he needs.

1-2
minutes

sermon recap: what did the text mean? what does it mean?

In the message this week we learned that wives were designed to be their husbands helpers and wives can best express their love by offering respect.

3-5
minutes

warm up

Leader tip: The first race is designed to be impossible to do without a helper

Do This:

Ask two married men to compete in a race by tying a shoelace in a bow using only one hand.

Now ask their wives to help them in the competition of tying a bow. Join together each couples right arm and left arm together leaving the two outside hands free. No verbal communication.

Ask This:

- How does this exercise illustrate the importance and value in the roles of husband and wife?
- Who is a married couple that you really admire and respect? What is it about that marriage that makes it so great?

the text: what does it mean for me?

The Text:

Have someone read Genesis 2:18-24

Ask this:

- Does our culture generally agree with God's design for a wife's role in marriage? If not, why?
- **Wives:** How do you feel about your role as a helper to your husband?
- **Husbands:** What are some things that your wife does that make you thankful she's your helper?

Do This:

Have someone read Ephesians 5:31-33

Ask This:

- How does Jesus show His love for the Church?
- How can the Church show deep respect for Jesus?
- How can a wife show deep respect for her husband?
- Why do you think wives need love and husbands need respect?
- What do you think the scripture is implying about husband loving his wife as himself?

DO THIS:

Have the men and women group up separately. Men in one room and ladies in a different room have them work together to come up with a top 3 list of answers per question. When both groups have filled in the blanks have them come back together and compare their findings for each question.

Leader Tip: *You will want to have 2 copies of the questions below prepared for separate groups.*

QUESTIONS FOR WOMEN:

- What do you think is our greatest challenge in respecting our husbands?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- According to Ephesians 5 what are some ways we can show respect to our husbands even when he doesn't deserve it?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

-
- What are some attitudes we need to change to improve our ability to respect our husbands better?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- In what ways do you benefit when your husband fulfills his role in loving you as himself?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

QUESTIONS FOR MEN:

- What do you think is your wife's greatest challenge in respecting you?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- According to Ephesians 5 what are some ways we should respond when our wives don't offer respect to us?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- What are some attitudes your wife needs change to improve her ability to respect you better?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- In what ways does your wife benefit when you fulfill your role in loving her?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ask This:

- **Husbands:** What was your main take-away from the ladies responses?
- **Wives:** What was your main take-away from the men's responses?

5-10
minutes

digging deeper

Please take the time to end your group time by watching this video "Broken Together" by Casting Crowns and allow your group to pray for each other's marriages.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhxELo-uD3c>