

MARRIAGE MATTERS

FIFTY 50 SHADES OF DEEPER GRACE - LOVE SEX AND DATING - PART 3

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- You can find some on page 6 [here](#).
- When you were a kid, at what age did you want to get married and how many kids did you want to have?

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- What does our society like/dislike about marriage? Why do they?
- What does our society like/dislike about singleness? Why do they?
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- What sources and experiences helped form your perspective of marriage?
- If you were God, and were creating from scratch, would you create the institution of marriage? Why or why not?
- Has marriage idolatry ever hindered you? (i.e. expecting too much from marriage, looking down upon your singleness)
- Pastor Mark shared that Christians should choose based on what makes us best fit for God's kingdom. What would it look like in your life to be more kingdom minded?
- "Spouses don't change us as much as they reveal us." How do you normally respond when you are revealed?
- "Marriage is the ultimate in vulnerability with intense proximity." How is this good? How is the bad?
- If marriage is about "holiness, not happiness" does God not want us happy?
- How holy are the healthy married people in your life? Does your definition of holiness need to tweak a bit?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Jesus, remind me that I am complete only in You. Thank you for sacrificing for me, because you didn't want to live without me. Help me to do that for my (future) spouse. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- When you see a dog this week, remind yourself that is NOT your (future) spouse's role. 😊

Matthew 19:3-6 (NIV)

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

⁴ "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'

⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?

⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

1 Corinthians 7:25-28 (NIV)

²⁵ Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

²⁶ Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are.

²⁷ Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife.

²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her