

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 2, 2014

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**Special note about this week's topic of marriage:** This week's homework and Growth Group discussion are designed to be helpful to all of us regardless of our marital status.

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *Marriage 101*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Is there a couple whose marriage you especially respect or admire? If so, what characteristics of their marriage stand out to you the most?

2. This weekend, Larry described a number of principles for a successful marriage. Looking back on the home you grew up in, which of these principles was most evident?

Are there any you wish would have been more evident?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. The first few chapters of Genesis tell the story of the creation of the world, humans and marriage. Although written more than 3,000 years ago, the principles found there are still relevant to marriages today. What insights about marriage do you see in Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:18-25?

How are these insights similar to or different from what you thought marriage was when you were growing up?

2. All relationships, be it marriage, family, friends, or roommates, go through rough times. Often it's difficult to admit we're going through a rough time and it can be unsettling if we don't know what to do to get out of it. How could the following verses help us deal with those rough times?

Proverbs 19:20

Galatians 5:14-15

James 1:19-20

Since we all struggle in our relationships at times, why do you think we find it difficult to allow ourselves to get input from others?

At what point would you be willing to seek input from someone regarding an issue you were dealing with in a relationship?

Can we ever become too dependent on input from others?

3. The Bible is full of stories about relationships between fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, friends, husbands and wives, bosses and employees, and many others. It also contains lots of great wisdom on how to do relationships in a healthy and God-honoring way. Pick one of the three relationships below, read the verses listed for that relationship, and then write down how those verses could be of help to you or someone you know in that area.

Parent/Child

Ephesians 6:1-4, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Proverbs 22:6

Friends

Proverbs 27:5-6, Proverbs 27:17, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Husband/Wife

Proverbs 31:10-12, Ephesians 5:25-33

### **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Based on this week's sermon and homework, is there anything you need to change or do in one of your relationships to make it healthier?

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Prayer Requests:

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### Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." [NIV]

### Genesis 2:18-25

<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

<sup>19</sup> Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. *[NIV]*

How are these insights similar to or different from what you thought marriage was when you were growing up?

2. All relationships, be it marriage, family, friends, or roommates, go through rough times. Often it's difficult to admit we're going through a rough time and it can be unsettling if we don't know what to do to get out of it. How could the following verses help us deal with those rough times?

#### Proverbs 19:20

<sup>20</sup> Listen to advice and accept discipline,  
and at the end you will be counted among the wise. *[NIV]*

#### Galatians 5:14-15

<sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. *[NIV]*

#### James 1:19-20

##### *Listening and Doing*

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. *[NIV]*

Since we all struggle in our relationships at times, why do you think we find it difficult to allow ourselves to get input from others?

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