

## MARRIAGE

### Song of Solomon 3:6-11 / Ephesians 5:22-27

\*Leader note: It is important to know your group and as we walk through this book be wise as to how you lead your discussions. Know when you should break off into men and women as well as singles and married couples or stay as a mixed group. Consider the content and the context as you prayerfully lead your group, knowing which questions are pertinent. Also, this book is applicable for both single and married people because whatever stage one is in they can learn or help others learn God's desire for marriage.

Marriage is the God-ordained relationship between one man and one woman. It is held in the highest honor by God and is intended to be valued by all. Marriage is the picture that God has given us of Christ and the Church. Within marriage are roles that God has defined the husband and wife to live out. In doing so, they reflect God's 'marriage' to His chosen people, the Church. Rooted in these roles are attitudes of humility, serving and preferring the other spouse.

### Ephesians 5:22-27

#### *Understanding*

1. Read 3:6-11 as a picture of the wedding day and the rejoicing that takes place between husband and wife.
2. Read Ephesians 5:22-27 and explain the different roles of husband and wife, set up by God.

#### *Application*

3. Pastor Jesse noted that the role of the wife is to submit to the husband as the spiritual leader. Biblical submission doesn't mean what culture tells us: weakness, lower or less than, doormat, etc. Rather, submission means to place up under, to honor, to support, to come alongside. The wife's role is to submit to her husband, *as to the Lord*, despite the fact that, as Pastor Jesse noted, he doesn't deserve it! Share how you have seen this word misused and misunderstood in our society.

#### *Analysis*

4. Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church. The role of the husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church; fully sacrificing himself for her! The husband is to have his wife's best interest in mind, loving her the way she needs to be loved, for the glory of God. Husband, what areas of your life are you not sacrificing for your wife and how can you better love her like Jesus loves the Church?

\*Single person: What are you doing, now, to prepare yourself (or someone you influence) to live according to the role God has defined you to live by in marriage?

5. \*Husbands, what steps can you take to be a better sacrificial, loving and servant-leader in the marriage?  
\*Wives, what steps can you take to honor and glorify God by submitting to your husband, as to the Lord, regardless of whether he deserves it or not?

#### *Evaluation*

6. Choose one area in your life that would make you a better spouse, what area will you focus on and why?

\*Single person: What is one area you can continue to prepare yourself (or someone you influence) in for the future?

### Homework

#### Married Couples:

- Talk about the good and bad patterns that you have set in your marriage
- What issues in your marriage do you need to repent of and apologize to your spouse for?
- Tell your spouse how you intend to better live out your role for the glory of God
- Who in your life do you have to encourage you in your marriage?

#### Singles:

- How are you preparing yourself for marriage?
- Who in your life do you have to encourage you in a possible future marriage?