

Small Group Agenda

Marriage Killers:

1. Protecting your Relationship from Harm

Week of July 25

Welcome

Which TV family reflects one interesting aspect of your family?

[Leader: If people have trouble thinking of TV families, here are some examples from TV shows past and present: Barones (Everybody Loves Raymond), Osbornes (The Osbournes), Bradys (The Brady Bunch), Huxtables (The Cosby Show), Waltons (The Waltons), Simpsons (The Simpsons), Cleavers (Leave It to Beaver), Griffins (Family Guy), Camdens (Seventh Heaven), Kardashians (Keeping Up with the Kardashians), Taylors (Home Improvement, Friday Night Lights, or The Andy Griffith Show!)]

Worship

Read Psalm 139:7-10. Where have you seen God this week? Pray together now, asking Him to guide our time together today.

Witness

How have you recently shared Good News or Good Works with pre-Christians?

Whom can you invite to the continuing message series, "Marriage Killers"? Pray together for these people, and plan to invite them!

Word Application

How did you put into practice last week's Big Idea? ... "Reject the poison of pride, and swallow the antidote of humility."

This week's Big Idea: "Honor builds your marriage while contempt kills it."

Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

[Leader: There will not be time to cover every question below, indeed some questions are very closely related. Listen for God's prompting about which questions to cover, and encourage interaction among the group members. ... Save time for the last question!]

In these Bible verses, what is a godly husband? What is a godly wife?

Men, what do you think/feel about the standard for husbands in verses 25 and 28?
Wives, what do you think/feel about the standard for wives in verses 22 and 23?

What does it mean for a husband to love and cherish his wife? What does it mean for a wife to respect and submit to her husband? When does a husband feel disrespected, and when does a wife feel unloved?

What does it mean for wives and husbands to honor each other?

In what ways does your spouse honor, love, and respect you?

If you are single, how do these verses apply to you?

What other relationship is marriage symbolic of? In what ways? How are the verses that we just read related to the verses that precede them?

How does the present-day view of marriage compare to this passage?

In your own words, how would you explain the main goal of a Christian marriage?

What is your interpretation of wives submitting to husbands?

[Leader: Don't get hung-up here, because this isn't the focal part of the verses. But the issue may come up, so it might be helpful for some to acknowledge that different Christians have different views about this, and that is okay. Some Christians believe that the husband should always be the leader of the household in all ways. Some believe that either can lead, as illustrated by the placement of verse 21 in the same section as verses 22-33, instead of with verses 3-20. Either view is within Christian orthodoxy.]

>> How might God be prompting you to make any changes in how you honor, respect, love, etc., your spouse? (Be careful not to dishonor your spouse with your response!)

Pray for one another!

* Some of today's questions were taken or adapted from *The Serendipity Bible*.

Works

Encounter with God

August 27-28, Kearns Spirituality Center, North Hills

The Encounter Retreat is LIFE-CHANGING WEEKEND with God! This overnight retreat will help you to experience the love and mercy of Jesus in a personal and powerful way. Over the course of 28 hours you will sense God's presence through teaching, interaction with others, and several enjoyable surprises. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center. Cost \$70. **Registration deadline: August 15.**

Note:

A shorter option for weekly SOAP readings, based on the upcoming weekend's sermon,

is now available at the Resource Desk and online.