

“What’s Love For Roundtable”

*Remember: The goal of small group is 100% participation. Everyone talks.



OPEN IT

- **Nobody Warned Me...** What is something about relationships, marriage, or adulthood that you thought would be much easier than it actually is?
- **2. The Question You’d Ask...** If you could sit down with a couple who has been married for 40+ years and ask them one question about making a marriage last, what would you ask?

READ IT:

- **1 Corinthians 7:1–7, 9** — Sexual desire, self-control, marriage, and responsibility
- **Ephesians 5:21–33** — Mutual submission, responsibilities of husbands and wives
- **James 1:19–20** — Listening, controlling anger, and responding to conflict
- **1 Corinthians 13:4–8** — The character of biblical love
- **1 Corinthians 7:10–16** — Marriage, divorce, and spiritually mixed marriages
- **Genesis 1:27–28** — Marriage, sexuality, and command to be fruitful and multiply
- **Psalms 127:3–5** — Children as a gift from the Lord
- **1 Corinthians 7:3–5** — Mutuality, consent, sexual responsibility within marriage
- **Matthew 19:3–9** — Jesus' teaching about marriage, divorce, and God's design
- **Malachi 2:14–16** — Covenant faithfulness and God's concern for marital betrayal
- **Proverbs 28:13** — Confession, repentance, and receiving mercy
- **Galatians 6:1–2** — Restoring someone gently and carrying one another's burdens

EXPLORE IT:

- Read **1 Corinthians 7:1–7, 9**. Paul takes sexual desire seriously, but he doesn't present marriage as simply a solution for people who can't control themselves. What do you notice about the balance between desire, self-control, marriage, and responsibility in this passage?
- One of the questions submitted was, “*How do you know if a couple is ready for marriage?*” What do you think are some signs that a couple is **ready to make a covenant**, rather than simply ready to have a wedding? What qualities would you want to see developing in someone before encouraging them toward marriage?
- Read **Ephesians 5:21–33**. The passage gets a lot of attention for what wives are called to do—but what does it actually demand of husbands? How does beginning with verse 21 change the way you hear the rest of the passage?
- Read **James 1:19–20** and **1 Corinthians 13:4–8**. When conflict seems unresolvable, what do these passages give us to *do* even when we can't get the other person to change? Which quality of love—patience, kindness, humility, self-control, keeping no record of wrongs, perseverance, etc.—is hardest to practice when you're angry?
- Read **1 Corinthians 7:10–16**. What hope and responsibility do you see in Paul's instructions when spouses aren't in the same spiritual place? What might it look like to pursue Jesus wholeheartedly without treating a spouse who isn't at the same place as a spiritual project?
- Read **1 Corinthians 7:3–5**. What does the mutual language in this passage teach us about how husbands and wives are supposed to approach sexual intimacy? Why is **mutuality** an important biblical concept when thinking about sex within marriage?
- Read **Genesis 1:27–28** and **Psalms 127:3–5**. What do these passages tell us about children? What questions do they **not** answer about family size or birth control? How should we distinguish between a biblical principle and a conclusion the Bible doesn't explicitly state?
- Read **Malachi 2:14–16**, **Proverbs 28:13**, and **Galatians 6:1–2**. What would genuine repentance look like after serious betrayal? What is the difference between **forgiveness, reconciliation, and rebuilding trust**? Why might reconciliation require much more than simply saying, “I'm sorry”?
- Read **Matthew 19:3–9** and **1 Corinthians 7:10–16**. What do these passages reveal about God's design for marriage and His seriousness about the marriage covenant? At the same time, what do you notice about the fact that Scripture addresses marriages in which things have already gone deeply wrong?
- Think back over the roundtable questions. Which one challenged an assumption you had about marriage, sex, conflict, singleness, betrayal, divorce, or

relationships? More importantly, **what did you hear that might require you to become more like Jesus—not simply to get someone else to behave differently?**

DO IT:

- **Have the Hard Conversation.** Choose one unresolved relational issue you've been avoiding. Ask, **“What would it look like for me to approach this conversation with the humility, patience, and self-control of Jesus?”** Then take one concrete step toward having the conversation well.
- **Ask the “Am I Ready?” Question.** If you're dating or considering marriage, don't only ask, *“Is this the right person?”* Ask, **“Am I becoming the kind of person who can faithfully love this person?”** Invite one mature Christian who knows you well to answer honestly.
- **Practice Mutuality.** For married couples, choose one area—conversation, decision-making, money, sex, parenting, time, or conflict—where you've slipped into keeping score. Spend some time asking, **“How can I better serve and understand you here?”** Listen before defending your position.
- **Trade the Fix for Faithfulness.** When someone you love isn't growing spiritually at the pace you want, resist the urge to manage their spiritual life. Instead, pray for them, model faithfulness, and ask God to show you how to love them well without compromising your own devotion to Jesus.
- **Take One Step Toward Repair.** If betrayal, unresolved conflict, resentment, or another relational wound exists in your life, don't assume that “moving on” is the same as healing. Identify the **next faithful step toward truth, repentance, forgiveness, wise counsel, or reconciliation**—and take that step with appropriate people around you.

PRAY IT:

God, thank You for giving us Your wisdom for relationships that are beautiful, complicated, joyful, and sometimes deeply painful. Give us the humility to listen to Your Word, the courage to face hard questions honestly, and the wisdom to know what faithfulness looks like in the situations we face. Teach us to love as Jesus loves—with patience, sacrifice, truth, purity, forgiveness, and grace—and help our relationships point people toward Jesus over everything. Amen.