

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE HUSBAND'S UNDERSTANDING
Making Marriage Work — WEEK 3

ICEBREAKER: When was the last time you wanted to scream? Explain.

OVERVIEW: So far in this sermon series we focused on what wives must do to make marriage work. We looked at the wife's submission and the wife's beauty. This week and next week we're going to focus on husbands. What is a husband's role in marriage? What must a husband do to make marriage work? What does it mean to be a great husband? Today we will get started by digging deeper into "The Husband's Understanding."

1. **Read 1 Peter 3:7.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What does it mean in 1 Peter 3:7 that the wife is the weaker partner?
3. In 1 Peter 3:7 husbands are commanded to live with their wives in an understanding way. The sermon focused on the fact that the husband must understand his God-given role in marriage. While men and women are equal in value, they have different God-given roles in marriage. What is the husband's role in marriage, and what is the wife's role in marriage?
4. Part of the husband's role in marriage is to love his wife. What are some of the misconceptions in our society about love?
5. What is the difference between the Biblical idea of loving your spouse (Greek: agape), and the feeling of being "in love" with your spouse? Is it important to feel "in-love" with your spouse? Explain.
6. The sermon stated that "love is not dependent upon your wife's performance." What does it mean to love your spouse unconditionally?
7. The Biblical definition of love is doing what is best for others and meeting their needs. What is the difference between a husband doing what is best for his wife, and a husband making his wife feel good?
8. Read Ephesians 5:28-29. Looking at the example of Christ, what does it mean for a husband to love his wife?
9. To love your wife sacrificially means to put your wife before yourself. What are some examples of how a husband might put his wife's interests before his own?
10. Just as Christ meets the needs of His church, a husband loves his wife by discovering and meeting her needs. What does a wife need? If you are a husband, how do you need to improve at meeting your wife's needs?
11. If you are a husband, what does your wife most need/desire from you in order to feel happy and in-love with you? How do you need to improve?
11. What's the difference between the world's definition of leadership and the Biblical definition of leadership, and how does that apply to the husband's leadership over his wife in marriage?

The Last Word: A basic Biblical definition of love is doing what is best for others and meeting their needs.