

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE WIFE'S BEAUTY
Making Marriage Work — WEEK 2

ICEBREAKER: How have your priorities changed over time? Explain.

OVERVIEW: Wives tend to make three mistakes when it comes to their physical appearance. First, some wives focus solely on their physical appearance and almost completely neglect their inner beauty. Second, some wives ignore the importance of outer beauty and focus only on inner beauty. Third, some wives focus almost all their attention on developing their husband's inner beauty. All three of these mistakes can cause a marriage to break down. This week we're focusing on the wife's beauty, and on what she can do to avoid the mistakes above and make herself as attractive as possible for her husband.

1. **Read 1 Peter 3:1-6.** 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. One of the statements made in the sermon was this: Anytime God tells you to do something, it's good for you. What are some of God's instructions about marriage that on the surface seem like they would be bad for you rather than good?
3. In 1 Peter 3:1-6, is Peter saying that wives should not concern themselves with their physical appearance, or that a wife's physical appearance is not important?
4. Do you believe a wife's physical appearance has any impact on the health of her marriage? Explain.
5. Why should a wife's outward appearance not be her primary or only focus if she wants a healthy marriage?

6. What does Peter mean in verses 3-4 that a wife's beauty needs to consist of what is inside the heart?
7. In 1 Peter 3:1-6 Peter mentions five virtues for wives to cultivate: Submission, purity, reverence, gentleness, and quietness. Before we discuss these, can you think of any other virtues that are essential for making marriage work?
8. Since we focused solely on submission last week, let's skip to the second virtue – purity. What does it mean for a wife to be sexually pure? How can a wife guard herself from having an affair?
9. The third virtue is reverence – or to be a God-fearing woman; a fully devoted Christ-follower. How healthy is your spiritual life? Explain. What steps do you need to take to grow in Christ?
10. The fourth virtue is gentleness – stay calm and kind, even when you are angry. What is it about your husband that most annoys and frustrates you (Just kidding! Don't answer that!)? How good are you at responding with gentleness when your husband hurts or angers you? Explain. How do you need to grow in gentleness?
11. The fifth virtue is quietness, or a quiet spirit; to keep the peace in your marriage. In the sermon it was stated that two ways to cultivate a quiet spirit are to avoid complaining and arguing (Philippians 2:14). How are you doing with complaining and arguing? Explain. What do you need to do to grow in these areas and to cultivate a quiet spirit?

The Last Word: You need more than outer beauty to build a healthy marriage. You need more than a pretty face if you want to finish the race. You need inner beauty.