

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: If you could establish one charitable organization, what would it be?

OVERVIEW: Martin Luther wrote, “Next to God’s Word, there is no more precious treasure than holy matrimony. God’s highest gift on earth is a pious, cheerful, God-fearing, home-keeping wife, with whom you may live peacefully, to whom you may entrust... your goods and body and life.” Marriage is a wonderful thing, but for marriage to work, we must follow God’s instructions. In this study we will go deeper with the six commitments of highly effective marriages.

1. 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’s the most important lesson you have learned about marriage? (Note: It doesn’t have to be something you learned in this sermon series.)
3. Many studies show that married people are healthier and live longer than singles. Why do you think this is the case?
4. Studies also show that married people are happier, wealthier, and have better sex lives than singles. Why do you think that is?
5. Read Hebrews 13:4.
 - a. What are some ways married couples, and society at large can honor marriage?
 - b. What does it mean that marriage should be honored by all?

SIX COMMITMENTS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE MARRIAGES For Better, For Worse — Week 3

- c. What does it mean to keep the marriage bed undefiled?
 - d. What warning does this verse give?
6. Refer to Sunday’s sermon.
- a. Of the six commitments taught in the sermon, which do you think is the most important? Why?
 - b. How does the commitment to permanence not only protect a marriage from divorce, but also lead to a healthier marriage?
 - c. Explain the commitment to selflessness.
 - d. According to the sermon, what causes people to fall in and out of love with each other? How can this concept help your marriage?
 - e. One of the six commitments is priority. After their commitment to Christ, their marriage comes before anything and anyone else. What are some common things that might compete with the priority of marriage, and how can a couple maintain the priority of marriage?

The Last Word: “You can be right, or you can be married.”