

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: Do you have a pet? If not, what sort of pet would you like?

OVERVIEW: Success is the result of preparation and execution. For an athlete, success requires more than just a good performance in the game (execution), but hours of practice, planning, and training before the game. The same goes for marriage. Building a healthy marriage begins long before you say “I do.” How you conduct yourself in your single years and the choices you make in your dating life can either lay a strong foundation for marriage or set you up for tears and trials. In this discussion we will go deeper with what Christian singles can do to prepare for a prevailing marriage.

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. Is marriage a good thing? Explain.
3. What makes marriage difficult?
4. What’s the key to marital bliss?
5. Matthew 7:24-27 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What is the point of this passage?

The Last Word: Happiness is not finding the right person.
It is being the right person.

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE Stand-Alone Sermon

- b. Does this passage have anything to say about the importance of preparation?
 - c. This passage talks about laying a strong foundation. What is the foundation for a healthy marriage?
 - d. How can someone begin to lay a strong foundation for marriage during their single years?
6. Refer to the sermon for the following questions. Why is it important for Christians to not marry unbelievers (1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14-16)?
7. How can sexual promiscuity before marriage affect a person’s marriage?
8. The sermon said not to date until you are spiritually healthy. Do you agree? Explain. In your opinion, what does it mean to be adequately spiritually healthy so that you are ready for dating and marriage?
9. The sermon suggested an exercise to help singles prepare for dating and marriage: To make a list of the qualities that you want in a mate and then label each quality as “essential” or “flexible”. What qualities do you think are essential for a man/woman to have for them to be “marriage material”?
10. What is the most important piece of dating advice that you would give to a Christian single?