

“Isolation to Intimacy”

Genesis 12

3/6/22

Small Group Discussion Guides

Read Genesis 12

1. First share insights that you took away from the message. What stood out for you?
2. Describe your home life as a child. What was your parent's marriage like? Did they raise you in a Christian home where faith was practiced and taught or not? How has your parents' relationship affected your ability to relate to your spouse? What would you do differently or what have you done differently?
3. What is a spirit-to-spirit relationship look like? Can it be achieved or is this something on which Christianity overpromises and under delivers? Do you know a couple whom you consider to be soulmates? What blesses you about their relationship?
4. How has our culture made it difficult to develop strong marital bonds (spirit-to-spirit) and
what can we do to counteract its effect?
5. *“In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.”*

If you are in a group with all couples you may want the women to answer the questions that offer advice to men about women and have the men respond to the questions that give insights to women about men.

- What is honoring to you?
- What do you wish men understood about women? OR What do you wish women understood about men?
- What are ways men can treat their wives as an equal partner? What are ways women can treat their husbands as an equal partner?
- What are ways that men treat women that communicate they are not equal partners and what are ways women treat men that communicate they are not equal partners?
- How should a man treat his wife? How should a woman treat her husband?

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6. If we really took to heart that spiritual blessings are intertwined with how we treat each other, in the case of marriage, how we treat our spouse, how would that impact marriage?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14. What's your reaction to it? Is this sound advice? Why does God give us this instruction? How hard are mixed marriages or marriages that are not equally yoked? Were you raised in an unequally yoked home? If so, what was it like?
8. How do we walk in agreement with our spouse? What does it take? What are key areas that couples must agree on in order to live in marital harmony?
9. What can we do or say that lets our spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend know that we notice them? What are ways you like to be noticed?
10. What are ways we can allow our marriage to devolve into a “brother-sister relationship” rather than a husband and wife relationship?
11. How easy is it for you to talk deeply and intimately with your spouse/others? What barriers do you experience? Name a way you insulate yourself from problems or pain in your relationships. (Doesn't have to be marital)
12. What spiritual and personal benefits have you experienced through your marriage or your parent's marriage?
13. If you were a mentor to a young couple what advice would you give them as to how they can build a marriage that lasts? If you are a young couple, find an older couple to develop a mentor relationship with.
14. What advice would you give to young couples regarding the raising of children? All of us have been children before, from a child's perspective what advice would you give parents about the raising of children?
15. Have you seen the ripple effect of a generational blessings being passed down due to a couple who built a strong spiritual foundation for their kids' life or have you seen the opposite, curses being passed down generationally?