

College & Young Adults Discussion Guide

For the week of June 30 - July 6, 2019

Main Passages and Thoughts:

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female,"⁵ and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"?⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Matthew 19:4-6 NIV)

- In Genesis 1 and 2, the Bible depicts how God created the world and everything in it, including the first man and woman who are joined together as husband and wife. God created marriage as a good thing despite of what we hear and see around us in media or in our everyday lives.

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse." (Matthew 9:16 NIV)

- Marriage marks the end of being single, meaning the things we did and the way that we thought while single might not work out when we're married. Learning to leave things in the past from old seasons isn't only practical, but beneficial to your future/current marriage.

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself." (Ephesians 5:21-28 NIV)

- All in all, marriage is ONE (not the only way) of God's greatest avenues to grow our faith because marriage points us back to Him. The good news of marriage is actually the good news of the Gospel: As Christ loved us by what He did on the cross, so we should love our significant other. We discover a deeper level of Jesus's love when we're married which not only affects our relationships, but how we live our daily lives.

Reflection:

- Based on the main passages and thoughts above, what stood out to you and why?
- What is your opinion on marriage? Do the main passages and thoughts change the way you think about marriage?

Application:

- What is one thing you could start doing to prepare yourself for marriage and why? If you're currently married, what is one thing you can adjust to better your marriage and why?
- What is one practical thing you can do to discover Jesus's love more in preparation for marriage? If you are married, what's one thing you can do to put God more at the center of your marriage?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would continue to reveal to us the value of marriage and what marriage is truly about.