



MAIN POINT

God is the very essence of love and all love originates with Him. Love is a strong force. When we consider marriage vows, we note that a strong promise is being made. A promise is a declaration I make now that will be needed in the future. Love keeps it's promises because love never gives up, never loses faith, and endures. What are the characteristics of the promise of love? First, love promises priority. In the context of marriage, the man leaves his father and mother, making the wife a priority. Priority is a choice to give up other choices. How do we know what our priorities are? We look at how we are spending our time and our money. In order for a relationship to flourish, it must be given priority. Jesus made us a priority when he willingly went to the cross for our sins. Next, love promises pursuit. Relationships often experience a sense of "drift." Pursuit is an intentional act that involves sacrifice and priority. Finally, love promises partnership. A relationship that's functioning the way God intended underscores the idea of partnership, oneness, and unity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [*Warm Up Question*] What is your favorite Valentine's Day tradition? How do you feel about this holiday? Is it helpful for relationships or unhelpful?
2. Read Philippians 2:1-2. What is our motivation for loving others? What does love look like in this context? What attitudes and actions are contrary to love for others?
3. How do you define a promise? Do you like making promises or are you leary of making promises? Why?
4. What does it look like to make your relationships with God a priority in your life? Why is doing this difficult at times? How are we overwhelmed by the urgent demands of life?
5. How does pursuit convey importance and care to others? Give an example of a time when someone pursued you to show you they cared.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How will you make your most significant relationships a priority this week? What will it look like to pursue them?
2. How is partnership helpful in your life? How does your involvement in a life group provide support and partnership for you? How would you like to see that partnership grow?