

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, March 20, 2022

RELATIONSHIP REFRESH: HAPPILY, EVER AFTER

Message Summary:

This week in Relationship Refresh, Pastor Lee Wilson taught us how to refresh our marriages. If we want to have a good marriage, we have to look to the word of God for instructions. The recipe for a successful marriage can be found in Ephesians 5. The first ingredient is reverence for God. Christ must be at the center of the marriage. The second ingredient is for the wife to submit to their husband with honor and reverence. Submit means “to put your needs above my needs.” It means considering your spouse in every situation. And the third ingredient requires the husband to love his wife and to give up his life for her. They are called to love their wife as they love themselves. This will push the husband and wife to live selflessly and fully in their marriage. If you want your marriage to work, you have to continue to put your spouse before yourself. Jimmy Evans said, “Marriage only works when it is first – when it has first place.” There is a big difference between a wedding and a marriage, and we need to prepare more for the marriage because while a wedding lasts a moment, the marriage is supposed to last for life. Marriage is an ordained vow, where two imperfect people choose to covenant with one another. And no matter what stage of marriage you might be in, if you want your marriage to work, you have to work on your marriage.

Key Scriptures:

- **[James 1:25 NLT]** 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law (word of God) that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
- **[Ephesians 5:21-26 NLT]** 21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. 25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

Discussion Questions:

1. If you are married, what are some simple things you can do to refresh your marriage?
2. How does a refreshed relationship with God in turn refresh your marriage?
3. If you are not married, but you want to be, planning ahead is so important. How do you plan to ensure that your future marriage stays refreshed?

Life Application:

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor Lee said, “For marriage to work, it has to be 100/100! Both the husband and the wife have to give 100% of themselves to the marriage. If you want your marriage to work, you have to work on your marriage.” It’s easily to say “Well, I’m trying, but they aren’t!” That is an excuse to stop working on your marriage. The moment you stop working on your marriage is the moment your marriage stops working. You have a responsibility to give your marriage 100%. Examine yourself. Are you giving 100% or have you stopped working? Right now – married or not – you need to be working on you. You are responsible for you, and you are the only person you and God will be talking about. It’s time to focus on you and transform your heart, and watch what God will do in your marriage and in your relationships as you refresh in Him.