You can have an amazing marriage. - Amazing through pain. Wk. 1

<u>**Ice-Breaker:**</u> *(Group Leader - Have everyone in your group answer this question. Start with one person and then proceed around the group in a circle until the last person has answered. Be specific with who you would like to start with.)*
- ***What is a great story about your spouse?***
  - ○ *Go ahead and tell your story!*

<u>**Tough Questions to Consider:**</u> *(Group Leader - Ask a few people to answer these questions.)*
Daniel made a statement on Sunday that relationships have the potential for the best experiences in life and the worst.

1. Have you had a relationship that provided an amazing experience?
2. Have you had a relationship that brought about pain in your life?
3. What is the gap between a great relationship and one that is not so great?

Text to consider.

<u>**Genesis 2:18-24**</u> *(Group Leader - Ask 1 person to read the following story.)*

Parable of the Good Samaritan

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature,that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs[g] and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib[h] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

  "This is now bone of my bones

    and flesh of my flesh;

  she shall be called 'woman,'

    for she was taken out of man."

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Group Questions: *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*
- *Why didn't they feel any shame?*
- *What brought about brokenness into their shameless lives?*

Turning point:
Genesis 3

- **Serpent enters the picture:** The devil
- **Adam & Eve disobey God:** Disobedience always causes pain
- **Adam & Eve are ashamed:** They hide from God
- **God covers them:** A foreshadowing of Christ

Group Questions: *(Group Leader - Ask 2 or 3 specific people to answer these questions.)*
- *Has the sin in your life and in the life of your spouse ever collided?*
- *Who covers that sin?*
- *How do we walk in that covering?*
  - ○ *Repentance & forgiveness restores our relationship with God and it also restores our relationships with others. We need both to be restored. Practicing repentance and forgiveness with your spouse is the path to an amazing marriage.*

Discuss this statement:

Amazing is on the other side of pain.

Hard questions to wrestle with:
- Have you ever felt like giving up on your marriage?
- Have you ever experienced pain in your marriage?
- Do you believe that God can restore your relationship with each other just as he has with himself?
- Are you willing to practice repentance & forgiveness?

Repentance and Forgiveness are a must for an amazing relationship. The most precious relationship you have with someone on earth is the one that you are married to. God is perfectly content to allow that relationship to be the one where you can practice repenting and forgiving. He is steadfast in his desire to make you holy and your spouse is a great resource for him to use.

Closing Prayer: *(Group Leader - Please pray this with your group.)*
- God, will you please help us to humble ourselves before each other, that we would be willing to be completely bare before our spouse? Will you come and bring amazing into our relationship as we are vulnerable with each other? Please help us as we practice repenting of the wrongs we have done and forgiving the wrongs done to us. Amen.

Thanks: Thanks to everyone for coming to group.