

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Message Series:** Giving Up  
**Message Title:** Giving Up Plan B  
**Speaker:** Robert Conn  
**Date:** February 11, 2018

### UP NEXT

- **Marriage Conference** (March 3) - Couples both married and engaged will benefit from practical sessions addressing marriage benefits like communication, forgiveness, purity, humility, and making sex mutually fulfilling. Join us for a day that will be a highlight for your marriage! Saturday, March 3rd. (8:00am - 4:00pm) \$55/couple (includes resources, snacks, and evening comedy show). Register at [reality.church/events](http://reality.church/events).
- **Comedy Night** (March 3) - Church-wide event at 7:00pm. The belly laughs begin with the comedy team of Barnes & Miner. They've written for/appeared on ESPN, HBO, NBC, FOX, Comedy Central, Jay Leno, Jack Black and more! \$10/ticket - *\*If you are attending the Married With Benefits Marriage Conference, your tickets for this event are already included in your conference cost.* Register at [reality.church/events](http://reality.church/events).
- **New Service Time** - Beginning next week, February 18<sup>th</sup> we will begin our fourth service called *Grounded at 6*. It will be launched in our future coffee shop space at 6:00pm. It's the same music, same message, unplugged. Consider checking it out if you think you'll enjoy it. Note: If you have small children you may want to stick to one of our regular services as we will not have Reality Kids during *Grounded at 6*.

### MAIN IDEA

Decide the difficult decisions early on in marriage and then manage those decisions.

### INTRODUCTION

- Marriage is typically viewed in one of three ways.
  - 1) As a Sacrament. In this view, marriage becomes a means of obtaining grace from God. It has its roots in church law (particularly the Catholic church). The biggest weakness to this view is that it is unbiblical to assume the marriage rite dispenses grace & the church controls the husband/wife relationship.
  - 2) As a Contract. In this view, marriage is entered into and controlled by two individuals. It has its origins in civil law and Enlightenment Thinking. The biggest weakness to this view is that it gives no permanency to marriage and opens the door to all kinds of anti-traditional marital arrangements.
  - 3) As a Covenant. We would consider this the Biblical understanding of marriage. This is a uniting of two peers under a Sovereign. It has its roots in divine law and Scripture.
- Couples who stick together understand that marriage is a sacred and solemn mystery in the eyes of God. As a result, they enter the relationship with the attitude that divorce is not an option. They understand that marriage is a lifelong adventure, filled with triumphs and defeats. Like Jesus, "who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame" (Hebrews 12:2), they press on toward the goal in both good times and bad.
- God could have chosen any picture to illustrate the relationship between Christ and the Church. However, He chose marriage. Why do you think that is?

## DISCUSSION .....

- If you had to define “marriage,” to someone unfamiliar with the concept what words would you use?
- What makes marriage unique and different from any other human relationship?
- How would you describe your “long view” of your relationships? Where do you see yourselves in five years? Ten years? Twenty?
- When you run into obstacles, road-blocks, or conflicts in your marriage (or relationships), what’s your “default” reaction? Do you get angry? Seek council from a family member? Blame one another? Or do you look for ways to solve the problem and move forward?
- Did you see lifelong commitment modeled in your family of origin? How has your experience affected your view of this concept?
- Would you describe your marriage as “an adventure”?
- Have someone read [\(Genesis 2:24\)](#)
  - What do you think it means to be “one flesh”?
- God views marriage as a covenant and not a contract. What is the difference between the two?
  - How do you feel our culture views marriage the majority of the time, as a covenant or as a contract?
  - Some verses that might help: (Malachi 2:10-16; Proverbs 2:17; and Ezekiel 16: 8, 15, 32, 59-60)
- What in your opinion are ‘biblical grounds for divorce’? What do you base your decision on?
- Have someone read any of the following verses and discuss:
  - Genesis 1:26-27
  - Deuteronomy 24:1-4
  - Malachi 2:10-16
  - Matthew 5:31-32
  - Matthew 19:3-12
  - Mark 10:2-12
  - Luke 16:18
  - Romans 7:1-4
  - 1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39

## APPLY IT .....

- Face Current Reality
  - Take an assessment of your marriage and if it’s in need of help admit it, and then seek help.
    - *Immediate Help* = [couplecheckup.com](http://couplecheckup.com) is a great assessment tool for your marriage. It’s on sale now too. Robert can help you interpret your results if you’re interested.
    - *Ongoing Help* = consider taking re/engage next August.
    - *Professional Help* = Give Kyle Mabus (Mabus Counseling) a call. (402) 504-9056
- Decide Once, Manage Daily
  - What needs to be decided now in your relationship or marriage? Create a list and have the conversation.