

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Message Series:** Giving Up  
**Message Title:** Giving Up The Others  
**Speaker:** Lance Burch  
**Date:** February 25, 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).
- **Have questions about God, Jesus, the Bible?** - Check out **Square One**, a new class for those Seeking truth, Starting a relationship with Jesus, or Returning to church after some time away. Square One begins March 4<sup>th</sup> and will be on Sunday mornings during the 10:45 service. Space is very limited so find out more information today at [reality.church/squareone](http://reality.church/squareone).

### MAIN IDEA

Don't keep a secondary relationship with someone who is destroying your primary relationship.

### INTRODUCTION

- The outside world deeply affects our marriages and relationships. It not only affects it but changes the way our marriages and relationships work and function. There are limitless pressures, temptations, and even genuinely good opportunities that come in from the outside.
- According to Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend, authors of *Boundaries in Marriage*, "We (as stewards of the marriage covenant) need to know to structure our relationship so the outside doesn't control what is inside."
- The range of "Outside influences" is numerous. The following have a tendency to weaken the marital bond:
  - *Work, Kids, Hobbies and Interests, TV/Entertainment, In-Laws, Church, Internet, Financial Involvement, Friends, Addictions, Affairs*
- Most of the above aren't horrible things, yet when they come between two people who truly care for one another, they can be destructive.

### DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been guilty of any of the following scenarios?
  - A wife talks to her best friend about her unhappiness with her husband, but doesn't let him know her feelings.
  - A husband confides to his female assistant that his wife doesn't understand him.
  - One spouse makes their child a trusted advisor, becoming closer to the child than to her mate.
  - A husband is more invested in his parents than his wife.
  - A person shares private information with one friend about another friend?

- The above are examples of “Relationship triangles”. When a third party is brought into a relationship that should be represented by two people.
  - What are other types of “Relationship triangles” that you have witnessed in your own relationship or in others’?
- Forsaking means “To Give Up” something. Therefore *Forsaking is Protecting*: Describe a time in your marriage or relationship where you had to ‘forsake’ something or someone in order to protect your relationship with your spouse or friend.
- Do you think that marriage always include forsaking or leaving behind other things?
- What are some benefits to couples allowing outside influences to grow their relationship properly?
  - Many years ago, Billy Graham’s wife, Ruth, was asked, “How is your marriage so successful?” She replied, “Because he plays golf, and I play bridge.” Ruth Bell Graham understood the value of outside sources of life for a marriage to flourish.
- If all outside influences are not negative, how does a person or couple decide which influences to allow access to their relationship or marriage?
  - Do both spouses (or friends) possess “Veto Power” when it comes to outside influences? In other words, if your spouse/friend said they did not want you to hang around a certain person, would you listen to them and respect their decision?
- “*Marriage is only as good as the investment people make in it.*”
  - Do you agree or disagree with this quote, and why?
- When you set up boundaries in any relationship you run some risks. What are some of those risks in your opinion?
- Have someone read [\(Galatians 5:22-23\)](#)
  - Do you ever see your spouse or friend displaying any of these qualities?
  - Do you regularly acknowledge them verbally when you do see them practicing these qualities?
    - If yes, what is the result?
    - If no, what would be a good reason to start?

## APPLY IT .....

- Using a Social Media analogy, when it comes to our secondary relationships there are four levels of disengagement and one positive engagement:
  - **Hide Post** - willingly choose to overlook those one-off statements. Extend immediate grace.
  - **Unfollow** - decide to not hang around jaded, cynical people. You’re not saying you hate them, and you’re not judging them, you’re just not going to hang out with them.
  - **Unfriend** - choose not to surround yourself with faulty logic and ignorance. Mindsets like “*Sisters before Misters, Bros before Hoes*” will always be demeaning and wrong.
  - **Block** - actively choosing to keep people out of your life. Set hard boundaries for these people and allow them to experience confronting those boundaries. (i.e. past relationships, exes, some family)
  - **Enable Notifications** - willingly allow the positive Influences to speak into your life. These are people who are for your marriage and who are for you fighting for your marriage.