



Montell & Kristin Jordan

November 2-3, 2019

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about a marriage role model of yours. Maybe there's a couple in your life who have a marriage that's one you look up to or admire. Share what sticks out to you about them, and the way they treat each other.
2. Talk about a quality of yours that could drive someone crazy in being married to you. Since none of us are perfect, we've all got our quirks or characteristics. Share one or two of your not-so-lovable ones.

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. God loves marriage.
2. A covenant marriage is a marriage with one man, one woman and God.
3. God created marriage in a certain way. And it's not to be recreated by us.
4. If the person isn't finding you in Christ, you don't want them finding you.
5. God is a God of order. The order is: God. Your spouse. Your children. The Church. Then comes everything else.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Deuteronomy 6:5; Mark 12:30; Ephesians 4:12, 5:25, 6:4; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Peter 3:1

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that stuck out to you. What made it stick with you?
2. Share what comes to mind when you hear the term, "soul mate." Maybe you do or don't believe they even exists. But, assuming one does, how might you describe a "soul mate"?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Read slowly and out loud, if possible. In this passage, Paul is describing what a Christ-like love looks like. Now, go back to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. As you read it a second time, every time you see the word, "Love", replace it with your name. Talk about how it changes your experience in reading the passage.
4. Talk about a time you experienced conflict with a loved one, but the relationship endured through it. Maybe in order to reach resolution you had to admit your fault or sacrifice your own desires. Talk about why you think your relationship with that person had the power to persevere, even through difficult circumstances.
5. Notice the way in which Paul describes *love* in the passage we read. He uses words like, "patient" and "kind." Of the descriptions he uses, which one is the most natural for you to demonstrate? Then, talk about which one you struggle in practicing. Maybe it's a tendency to lose patience or keep a record of wrongs. Share your Achilles heel when it comes to *love*.
6. Montell and Kristin shared that for love to work best, it needs to work in order. Our first priority must always be God. Then comes our spouse, family, friends, work, etc. Some of us can over-prioritize our jobs or under-prioritize our families. Share a bit about what parts of your life can sometimes fall out of order.

7. Love can begin as a feeling, but it eventually always becomes a choice. Montell and Kristin said that we do better at this when we have people watching us. Talk about a person or two you have in your life who helps challenge you to love better. Who do you have *watching* you?
8. Our relationship with God overflows to our relationships with others. Take a few minutes and reflect on where you've seen God move in your life in this last week. Then, talk about some ways you can make God your first priority this next week.

Closing Prayer:

God, you come first. Despite all the priorities, anxieties, people and distractions around us, we want you to come before everything. Help us love those around us better as we seek to love you with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. We don't want to be anxious about our relationships with others, because we want it all to be rooted in our relationship with you. We commit to putting you first this week. We love you.

Amen.