



PART TWO: PRIORITY

To really be fulfilled in life? To have everything you're supposed to have for life to work the way it is supposed to work? You have to find the one. This week we are going to examine placing God as **priority**. God is to be our *one*—our spouse is to be our two. Because to really be fulfilled in life? You have to find the *one* and God is the *one*.

BIG IDEA: God is the one and your spouse is the two.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the top three relationships you value most in your life right now? What three activities do you give the most time to in an average day? Do your activities support the relationships you value most? If so, how? If not, why do you think that is?
2. Read Matthew 22:37-39 and Exodus 20:3.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3

3. Was there a time when you put a relationship with another person ahead of your relationship with God. If so, how did it affect your relationship with God?
4. If someone, who didn't know you, observed all of your daily activities last week, what would they conclude are your top priorities?
5. Read Genesis 2:18-23.

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. 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. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 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 and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 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." Genesis 2:18-23

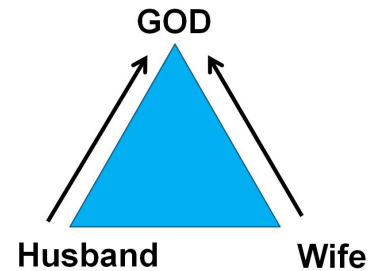
6. God giving Adam a wife happened immediately after he named all of the animals. What do you think God was trying to teach Adam during this time?
7. Everything God made up to this point He said, "It is good." Why do you think God says in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good?"
8. At this point, was Adam looking for a wife? Look at the verbs that God is doing in Genesis 2:21-22. Whose idea was marriage?



9. Read Genesis 2:24-25.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:24-25

10. Prior to being married, the most important human relationship is with our parents. Have your priorities changed in your life after being married. If so, how?
11. Have you ever seen a couple that never really left their home of their parents—either emotionally, financially, or relationally? Describe their relationship with their spouse. Do you think their relationship with their spouse is hindered or helped by their never really leaving?
12. For those that are not married, describe which relationships are top priority in your life currently. How are those relationships impacting your life right now?
13. Read Ephesians 5:18-6:5. For those with children: Have you ever found yourself saying, “We’ll have time for one another when our children are grown. Right now, it’s all about the kids”? How can you change your schedule to better prioritize your marriage relationship?
14. God’s order is: *God, spouse, children, job. God, spouse, children, job.* How does the world turn that upside down? Is God’s priority list upside down in your family?
15. Read Matthew 6:33.



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:33

16. Are there specific changes you believe God is calling you to make so that he remains your number one priority? If so, what are they?

THINK ABOUT IT

It is not only the negative things that can disrupt your priorities; it can often be the positive things too. What are the top three things (negative or positive) that currently have the most potential to disrupt your priorities?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

For those that are not married, describe which relationships are top priority in your life currently. How are those relationships impacting your life right now?

If you are married, commit to pray together daily this week. Individually and in your group, pray and ask God to be first in your life and pray that He will give you the wisdom and strength to protect your priorities.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
Matthew 22:37-39



GOING DEEPER

1. What would be some effective ways to determine what is really a priority in your life?
2. Read Matthew 13:44-46.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.” Matthew 13:44-46

3. What is like treasure hidden in a field? How? (13:44)
4. What is the kingdom of heaven like? Why? (13:44)
5. Where was treasure hidden? (13:44) What happened when the man uncovered the hidden treasure? (13:44)
6. How did the man feel when he discovered the treasure? (13:44)
7. To what did Christ compare the kingdom of heaven?
8. What did the man in the parable find? (13:46)
9. How valuable was the pearl? (13:47) How did the man who found the pearl react to its discovery? (13:47)
10. If we believe the gospel is true, why does it often seem so easy to be passive about our relationship with Christ?
11. How can we maintain the joy and excitement we had when we first met Christ?
12. When, if ever, has your relationship with Christ cost you something?
13. What would you say to a someone who says that you can be a Christ follower without completely "selling out" to follow Christ?
14. Other than buried treasure or a precious pearl, what illustrations could you use to explain the value of knowing Christ to others?
15. Are there items in your own life that you need to “sell off” in order to focus your priorities on following Christ?

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO USE FOR YOUR TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

Day 1: Read Ephesians 5:22-23. Spend time praying and ask God if He is truly your number one. Ask Him to show those things in your life that are competing for His place.

Day 2: Read Matthew 6:25-34. Ask God to center your focus again today on continuing to make Him number one in your life.

Day 3: Read Matthew 22:37-39. Pray, asking God to remove the distractions in your life that would keep you from making Him your top priority today.

Day 4: Read Genesis 2:24-25. Lift up in prayer those relationships most important in your life.

Day 5: Read Mark 12:28-34. Pray for those in your small group that they will make God the number one priority in their lives. Commit to God that you will do your part to help your group as a whole put God first.

