

# Discussion Questions

## INTRODUCTION

The first institution that God created was marriage. This one-flesh, exclusive, permanent relationship provides the foundation for the family unit to flourish. The strength of this institution has a direct impact on the health of all other institutions within the family and our society as a whole.

## GETTING STARTED

1. How has society's view of marriage changed over the past 50 years? How has this change impacted you and those closest to you? Why do you believe marriages are struggling so much today?

## BIBLE IDEA

2. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. How is Christ our model for mutual submission (see Phil 2:5-11)?
3. In a practical sense, what does submitting to one another look like (vs. 21)?
  - Because of what Christ did and modeled for us, how is the wife called to respond to her husband and vice versa (v 22-29)?
  - What obstacles must the husband, as well as the wife, battle to fulfill their responsibilities?
4. Read 1 John 3:18. How would you describe love? What happens when you wait to "feel love" in order to show love? What does it take to love your spouse even when you aren't "feeling it"?
5. Read Matthew 19:3-6. Jesus describes the marital bonds as a "one flesh" union. What are the implications of how you see your spouse and your marriage as one flesh?
6. Read Ephesians 5:33. Based on this verse, what primary need should the husband fulfill for his wife and what primary need should the wife fulfill for her husband?

## NEXT STEPS

7. If you are married, tell your spouse what you learned from this teaching and what you would like to do differently in response. Ask your spouse to tell you one practical way you can show love or respect to them this week.