

Leader's Guide

Strengthening the Family: *Flesh of my Flesh*

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Dave Hathaway

Leaders note

The goal of this discussion is to help your group understand that God's design for marriage points to a greater reality, and that's His relationship with His people. Whether married or single, every believer is called to pursue unity that is centered on Jesus and that reflects God's character to the world around us. By the end of the conversation, each person in the group should be able to identify one relationship where they can intentionally demonstrate greater love, humility, unity, or sacrifice this week.

Question 1:

Read Matthew 19:4-6

Question:

The message centered on the fact that marriage was God's idea from the beginning and was designed to unite two people into one. What stands out to you about God's original purpose for marriage, and how does that differ from the way our culture often views it today?

Additional Scriptures

- Genesis 2:24
- Psalm 127:1

Follow Up Prompts

- Why do you think God established marriage before any other human institution?
- What are the differences you see between a covenant and a contract?
- How does our culture typically define the purpose of marriage?
- What happens when marriage becomes primarily about personal happiness rather than God's design?

Question 2:

Read John 17:21-23

Question:

The sermon described marriage as a living picture of God to the world. What qualities or behaviors in a marriage best reflect God's character and the gospel to others?

Additional Scriptures

- Ephesians 5:25
- John 13:35

Follow Up Prompts

- Have you ever witnessed a relationship that pointed you toward Christ? What stood out?
- Why do you think Jesus connected unity with evangelism?
- How do sacrifice, forgiveness, grace, and commitment reflect the gospel?
- How can believers demonstrate Christ's character in relationships outside of marriage?

Question 3:

Read Genesis 2:24

Question:

The sermon talked about two people becoming "one flesh" and learning to live in unity despite their differences. What do you think makes unity difficult in close relationships, and what helps strengthen it?

Additional Scriptures

- Philippians 2:3-4
- Colossians 3:13-14

Follow Up Prompts

- What are some common threats to unity?
- How do pride and selfishness affect relationships?
- Why is it often easier to demand understanding than to seek understanding?
- What habits strengthen unity over time?

Question 4:

Read John 17:23

Question:

Jesus prayed that His followers would be one so that the world would know He was sent by the Father. How well do your closest relationships reflect that kind of unity and Christ-centered love?

Additional Scriptures

- Romans 12:18
- Ephesians 4:2-3

Follow Up Prompts

- What relationship has most shaped your understanding of unity?
- Is there a relationship where God may be inviting you to pursue greater peace or reconciliation?
- What attitudes or habits make unity difficult for you personally?
- If someone observed your closest relationships, what picture of Christ would they see?

Question 5:

Question:

We were challenged to view our relationships as opportunities to display God's character to the world. What is one practical step you can take this week to strengthen a relationship and better reflect Christ through it?

Follow Up Prompts

- Is there someone you need to encourage?
- Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Is there a difficult conversation you've been avoiding?
- What act of service or sacrifice could demonstrate Christ's love this week?

Closing Challenge

This week, think of one relationship where you can intentionally demonstrate Christ's love through a specific act of service, encouragement, forgiveness, humility, or sacrifice.