



Power

Getting Started

- *Larger LIFE Groups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone go around and share a “High” from the week and a “Low” from the week.
- Share how decisions finally were made in the house in which you were raised. (For example: “Swept it under the rug or Epic Battles...)

Community Note (1 Min)

- In the midst of a marriage series, some people might ask: “Why should singles care about a marriage series?”
 - a. Studies show that the vast majority of people eventually get married - and a series like this can help prepare people for a future relationship.
 - b. Our health as the body of Christ depends on all people pouring into one another - and leaning into a study on marriage will no doubt give you valuable insight that you can use to support the married couples around you.
 - c. This series contains great info that can be applied beyond the marriage relationship.
- For a great article on leaning into your singleness, visit <https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/lead-out-of-your-singleness/>

Scripture Study (30 Min)

- Read Ephesians 5:1-2. How might this verse set us up for making decisions in a healthy way that are pleasing to God?
- How does having the same worldview/biblical outlook on life, help to have alignment with regards to decision making?
- How does what we learned with regards to love and respect from the previous session on communication help to have good decision making?
- Scripture teaches: Husbands love your wives. Wives, submit to your husbands” (see Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Titus 2:3-5). Tim and Kathy Keller offer these four guidelines when it comes to decision making and biblical gender roles:
- *“The husband's authority (like the Son's over us) is never used to please himself but only to serve the interests of his wife. Headship does not mean a husband simply ‘makes all the decisions,’ nor does it mean he gets his way in every disagreement. Why? Jesus never did anything to please himself (Romans 15:2-3). A servant-leader must sacrifice his wants and needs to please and build up his partner (Ephesians 5:21ff).”*
- *“A wife is never to be merely compliant but use her resources to empower. She is to be her husband's most trusted friend and counselor, and he is hers (Proverbs 2:17). The ‘completion’ that embracing the Other entails involves give and take. To complement each other means husband and wife need to hear each other out, and make their arguments. Completion is hard work and involves loving contention (Proverbs 27:17), with affection (1 Peter 3:3-5), until you sharpen, enrich, and enhance each other. She must bring every gift and resource that she has to the discussion, and he must, as any wise manager, know when to allow her expertise to trump his own, less well-informed opinion.”*
- *“A Wife is not to give her husband unconditional obedience. No human being should give any other human unconditional obedience. As Peter said: ‘We must obey God rather than men’ (Acts 5:29). In other words, a wife should not obey or aid a husband in doing things that God forbids, such as selling drugs or physically abusing her. If, for example, he beats her, the ‘strong help’; that a wife should exercise is to love and forgive him in her heart but have him arrested. It is never kind or loving to anyone to make it easy for him or her to do wrong.”*
- *“Assuming the role of headship only done for the purposes of ministering to your wife and family. Some say, ‘In the biblical view, the husband and wife minister to each other unselfishly, so then what is the difference?’ It is clear that the Son obeys his head, the Father, and that we obey our head, the Christ. But how does this authority work out in the context of mutually serving persons equal in dignity and being? The answer is that a head can only overrule his spouse if he is sure that her choice would be destructive to her or to the family. He doesn't use his headship selfishly, to get his own way about the color of the car they buy, who gets to hold the remote control, and whether he has a ‘night out with the boys’ or stays home to help with the kids when his wife asks him.”*

- How do these four guidelines give context and meaning to God's wisdom, not to have a two-headed monster in marriage, but to reflect biblical gender roles appropriately?

Group Prayer (15 Min)

Trios (20 Min)

Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
 - How did you see God at work in your life this week?
 - What has God been teaching you in His Word as you've encountered it in this week's Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
 - What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? Is there an area of your life in which you'd like a friend to check in on you periodically?
- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**
 - What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How's your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you're building and spiritual conversations you're having with non-believing neighbors and friends.
 - List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:

 - What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
 - How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?