

“Marriage”

Growth Group Guide

August 17, 2025

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

It's likely that you have attended at least one wedding in your lifetime. You may even have participated in one. Think of a memorable moment (poignant, sweet, emotional, funny, or other) from a wedding you've been to and share this with the group.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Read the verses below. Take some time to praise and thank God that we are loved deeply by Jesus, as deeply as a bride and groom on their wedding day.

Psalm 103:10-11 (NIV)

“he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;”

Isaiah 61:10 (NIV)

“I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. To start, consider some ways that marriage can be an example of Christ's love for us (all people)? What ideas come to mind? Make a list as a group.
2. Taking the list you just made, **read Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:5 in the NIV**. Do any of your ideas from question one fit with the thoughts in these verses? If so, which ones?
3. The picture in these verses of a man (the Groom) and woman (the Bride) being united in marriage and becoming “one flesh” can help us look at what union in our relationship with Jesus can be.
-First, discuss, besides in an intimate way, how a husband and wife might be united or become one? How would that look on a daily basis?
-Second, from this discussion, what might oneness look like in your relationship with Jesus?
4. Continue with the marriage imagery. Look specifically at Christ as our Bridegroom, and us, the Church, as His bride. What does this mean for those of us in the Church? How can we respond to Him as His bride? Discuss, then **read Ephesians 5:25-27, 2 Corinthians 11:2, and Ephesians 5:24** for further insight.
5. Discuss how the world or our current culture views marriage. How does the way Jesus view marriage differ from the view of marriage we typically see in the world?

6. **Read Matthew 7:3-5**. While not in the context of marriage, how can this passage be applied to the marriage relationship?
7. **Read Philippians 2:3-4**. Again, these verses are not in the context of marriage. Even so, discuss ways that the principles of these verses can be applied to marriage. How does this passage show us more of the character of Jesus, our Bridegroom?
8. The humility we find in both the Matthew and Philippians passages, benefits our human relationships and our relationship with Jesus. Why is humility so important for both?
9. Love, union, and mutual humility with our “one husband,” Jesus, are among the gifts we have with Him. **Read Hebrews 13:5-6**. What other gifts does He give us as His Bride?
10. What was most meaningful to you from this study? What popped for you today? Share with the group as you feel comfortable.

WALK *(Living out God's purposes)*

- **One Big Idea: We can trust that, as the bride of Christ, Jesus will always be with us.**
- ✓ **Re-read Hebrews 13:5b-6**. Meditate on the meaning of this promise. Think about times and circumstances in your life in which this promise would be of great comfort. Also, consider listening again to Pastor Mike's sermon “Leveled Up” from Sunday, August 3rd. Pay particular attention to what he says about our place as believers in Jesus and where God is in relation to us. Be comforted in the knowledge that we are never alone.
- ✓ Enjoy time this week with Jesus as your Bridegroom. Use the thoughts that stuck out to you most from question #10. Spend time loving Him with words from your heart. Maybe like this: “I love you, Jesus. I love you for...”
- ✓ Did the sermon and this study reveal an area where you'd like to grow in your relationship with Jesus? Talk to Him about it today. **Read Philippians 3:8-9a** for encouragement!

WORLD *(Embracing God's heart for others)*

Boise Bible College has been working hard to get ready for the 2025-2026 school year. Part of getting ready has been making urgently needed repairs to their water heaters, HVAC units, and roof. Praise the Lord! They have received all the funding needed plus thousands more. They are so grateful since they won't need to secure a loan, and they can move ahead with the needed work. Also, this generous funding means their General Fund won't take a hit either. “Many thanks to those who stepped up and helped with this. Our students, faculty, staff, and guests are benefitting. Even more, we pray that the church benefits as students are equipped for servant leadership in these improved facilities.” (Update from boisebiblefriends.org/help-us-with-the-basics. 8/8/25.)

“So we way with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper...’” Heb. 13:6 (NIV)

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