

GROUP STUDY 2: PARTNERSHIP

Series Introduction: Wedding vows are more than a declaration of love—they hold the keys to a strong, lasting marriage. A marriage, like every relationship, is built on a series of promises. Whether you hope to get married someday or you've already tied the knot, these promises are worth reflecting on and discussing to strengthen our marriages or better prepare us for the one God might be bringing into our lives.



ICE BREAKERS

- What is something you've partnered on with someone else? Maybe for work or a hobby or in some other area of your life?
- If you're in a relationship, how are you opposites and how are you similar? (If you aren't reflect on those who have dated)

ENGAGING IN THE TOPIC

History is a record of God's pursuit of humanity. God, in his relentless love, never gave up trying to win a relationship with us. If marriage reflects God's love for us, then our pursuit of our spouse should be just as relentless. What does it look like in our marriages or in our dating to pursue one another and to be pursued?

- Read Matthew 19:5-6
 - Why do you think God makes marriage such a big deal? What purposes does it serve?
- Ephesians 5:21-25
 - How could this affect the way a husband and wife relate? Talk about some specific examples of arguments, decisions, responsibilities etc.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you seen the concept of submission abused? How have you seen it work in a God-honoring way?
- How would you describe the differences between a covenant and a contract? Which best describes marriage in your estimation? Why?
- If marriage isn't about dividing everything in half, but instead giving everything you've got, how does that change your approach? Which are you more prone to do in relationships? In what ways?
- What is most challenging to you about the concept of submission in marriage?
- What are some ways you could be more of a servant in your most important relationships?

Take time as a group for everyone to write down three ways that they could be more of a servant to the others in their home. Then challenge those who are married to have a conversation with their spouse about their ideals for what a partnership can look like.

Pray for one another's conversations in the coming week as well as each person's attitude as they make attempts to mutually submit and serve one another. May the service and sacrifice of Jesus be seen in our relationships.