

LIFE GROUP LEADER NOTES FOR SERMON BASED DISCUSSIONS

April 21 "FAMILY GOD'S WAY" Series... "HOW to HAVE a HAPPY MARRIAGE"

(LG Leader) Review your personal notes from this week's message.

Key Scriptures: Joshua 1:8, Matt. 7:24-27, Philippians 4:6-7

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Where would you go, if you could move anywhere in the world, and why?
- When your phone is dead and you're lost, which are you most likely to do:
a) stop and ask for directions, b) check a map, c) drive around until you find it

Start Sharing. Ask these questions to create openness.

- What new wisdom did you gain from this past Sunday's sermon?
- Of all the couples you know well, who's marriage is outstanding to you and why?
- What are some key ingredients to building a healthy and happy marriage?
- Why is it important to give God first place in your marriage?
- What caught your attention about the role "forgiveness" can have in marriage?

Read the following quote and Scriptures out loud, then ask for comments...

"Great marriages don't happen by luck or by accident. They are the result of a consistent investment of time, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, affection, prayer, mutual respect, and a rock solid commitment between a husband and a wife." Author Dave Willis
1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Romans 5:1-5; Matthew 18:21-22

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What can make apologizing and forgiving difficult in marriage?
- When our marriages struggle, how do return to our first love?
- How could we apply Ephesians 5:1-5 to our marriage?
- Are you more likely to want to "talk through" when offended or to overlook and/or forgive when offended?
- Do you need your loved one to apologize in order to forgive them?

Start Praying. We have a gracious God who hears our prayers.

- How can we pray for you... your marriage... your family?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- How can you love and serve your spouse this week?
 - Some Ideas - (affirm, respect, communicate, appreciate...)

"Speech that heals is like a life-giving tree, but a perverse speech breaks the spirit" Proverbs 15:4

Supplemental Scriptures: Proverbs 19:11, Joshua 24:15, 1 Peter 1:22