



Love & Respect

Part 2 – Rekindling Your Marriage

Discussion Guide

Love & Respect is a series about learning to love God, love people, and love ourselves the way we are taught throughout the Bible. This week, we look at what the Bible says about loving and respecting our marriage partners. We will also see that God is in the middle of our marriage commitments. Honoring that covenant honors God; and in turn, following God strengthens our marriages!

Jump Start

Leader: This section is designed to get discussions started, examine God's truth, and apply it to our week.

1. If you are married, what is one of your first memories of your spouse? If you are single, what is the primary attribute you are looking for in a mate?
2. **Read [Malachi 2:14](#)**. Have you ever felt that God did not hear your prayer or care about your situation? What does this verse say may be a reason? **Read [Matthew 6:14-15](#) and [1 Peter 3:7](#)**. List reasons God may seem deaf to your worship and prayers.
3. Let's look at that verse again. **Read [Malachi 2:14](#), [Mathew 18:20](#), and [Ecclesiastes 4:12](#)**. Who is a witness to your marriage vows? What else does the Bible tell us?
4. Malachi says, "So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless" 2:16b (ESV). How do we "guard ourselves in our spirits"? **Read [Proverbs 4:23](#), [Psalm 141:3](#), [Proverbs 4:25-27](#) and [Job 31:1](#)** for some specific examples. Discuss them with your group. Which are easy for you? Difficult?
5. Final Thought: This weekend, we heard that there are many ways to connect or reconnect. We talked about serving each other, forgiving, intimacy, and spending recreational time together. We talked about praying together and submitting to each other. Evaluate your relationships: what are you doing well and what areas need improvement?

Deeper

Leader: This section is designed for further use in your Life Group or for personal study. These can also be used as discussion points and ways to stay connected with your group throughout the week.

We studied “submitting” to one another earlier this year. If this is a bit of an issue for you, or you’d like a refresher on it, go to The Cove’s website and look for the message study notes on *Just Ok Is Not Okay, Part 1*, January 2019. The *Deeper* portion of the study was about this topic.

In all our relationships, God requires that we live a life that both honors Him and respects others. Last week, we looked at the Great Commandment and the Second Commandment: love God with all you have and are; love your neighbor as yourself. This week, we’ll look at other specific ways to show love and respect to others. We’ll also look at other actions that will keep us from walking in close communion with God.

6. **Read [Isaiah 58:3-5](#)**. What was their complaint in the first part of verse 3? What were they doing? What were they not doing? List some of these sins.

7. **Read [Isaiah 58:6-8](#)**. What would God have preferred they do? Refrain from doing?

8. What simple things is God asking from each and every person? **Read [Micah 6:8](#)** for a concise list! How does this translate into love and respect?