

UP, IN, OUT:

Thinking about marriages in the community outside our church, what do you think some of the biggest challenges facing them are?

How do you think we as a group or as a church could help outsiders experience better marriages?

OPEN:

Your parents (step parents, grandparents, neighbors, etc.) modeled marriage for you growing up. What are some good and bad things they modeled to you concerning marriage?

DIG:

Read Gen 2:15-25

- If this was all we knew about marriage, what could we know just from this passage. Make a list.
- What are some of the big questions we would be left with if this was all we knew about marriage?

Read Ephesians 5:21-24

- Why is it important to include verse 21 with this passage even though most Bibles make a break there?
- What do you think it means for a wife to submit to her husband as to the Lord?
- What do you think this doesn't mean? How would you support this with Scripture?
- How would a wife today choose when she needs to submit to her husband and when she should not submit?

Read Ephesians 5:25-30

- If husbands are to love their wives like Christ loves the church, and part of that is Christ washing the church in the water of the Word (v.26), what do you think this means for husbands as they seek to follow Christ today?
- In what ways could a husband nourish his wife as Christ nourishes the church?

Read Ephesians 5:31-33

- Using the cross reference notes in your bible, look up the other verses that are connected to v.31
- What do these other verses add to our understanding of this passage?
- What do you think v. 32 is trying to say? How is this a profound mystery? How is this talking not just about marriage, but of Christ and the church?

REFLECT and APPLY:

- Based on the summary of the passage given in v. 33, what is one thing you could do this week to begin better loving or respecting your spouse?
- Single people, how can you be preparing to better love or respect a spouse should God bring one to you in the future?

PRAY: