

Small Group Discussion Questions

April 25, 2010

The Marriage Experts – Part 1 Hitting The Bulls-Eye

Intro: We all know what a great wedding looks like but have you ever witnessed a great marriage? More importantly, have you ever experienced a great marriage? Maybe most of us don't even know what make a marriage great or if it even matters. In this series we'll explore what makes a marriage great, and why that matters to everyone.

Just For Fun:

1. Have you ever attempted to hit a bulls-eye in a sport or game? Describe.

Discussion Questions:

2. This week we explored the difference between a *covenant* and a *contract*. In a covenant, *I surrender my rights and assume my responsibility*. In a Contract, *I limit my responsibility and protect my rights*. Discuss what marriage would be like if it was lived from each of these perspectives?

3. Dwight stated that one way to *hit the bulls-eye* in marriage is to *prioritize your spouse*. Why is this important? What does it communicate to them? Why do people resist doing this?

4. Another way to *hit the bulls-eye* in marriage is to *pursue your spouse*. Does pursuing your spouse require commitment and energy? Explain. Give practical examples of how to do this.

5. Read Philippians 2:3-4. This verse emphasizes the marriage principle of *practicing co-ownership*. What must we *sacrifice* to do this? Why is it crucial that practicing co-ownership be *mutual*?

6. In this message, we examined 4 areas to value and protect in the relationship with our spouse; *the mind* (thoughts), *the emotional* (feelings), *the spiritual* (intimacy with God), and *the physical* (sexual intimacy). Which one is most difficult for you to give attention to? Which one do you think is most difficult for your spouse to give attention to?

7. In this week's message, what was the most *meaningful statement* or *scripture* to you?

If you forget everything else, remember:

"Every marriage ends up somewhere, but few end up somewhere on purpose." – **Dwight Mason**

Verse to remember:

"May you rejoice in the wife of your youth." – **Proverbs 5:18**