

GROUPS

Week of 2-14-21

The following group discussion topics are from the second message in the series: "It's Complicated" at Stockbridge Community Church and was presented by Pastor Jeff Daws.

LEADERS: It's a great idea to read out the overview below to set the stage for the next few weeks of group discussions.

OVERVIEW: Let's be honest, we are all at different places with our relationships. Some are married (long or short term), some may be divorced (newly or long term) and some of us may be single. The idea is to learn through this semester from one another's experiences. And remember, it's always better to be real than to pretend that we are always right.

ICEBREAKER (If your group needs it) What pets do you have in your household?

#1 Today we talk about becoming ONE in marriage. No, it's not what you think - it's becoming ONE in spirit. There is no magic, one-stop-fix that can get a couple on the same page spiritually, it takes work - that's what we'll be talking through together today. Before we get too deep into today's topic though: **What are some ways that you can think of that would get a couple on the same page spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically?**

#2 One of the ways that we can strengthen our bonds in marriage is to "die to ourselves daily." The Bible says that we are called to love our spouses the way that Christ loved the church. Let's read our key verse and then come back and answer the follow-up.

KEY VERSE:

"...If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

FOLLOW UP: We're called to "take up our cross" and follow in Jesus' footsteps daily. The same is true for marriage. After all, the church is the Bride of Christ, and Jesus gave up his preferences, resources, time, and his very life for the church. We have to be willing to do this as well. Not a physical death, but truly putting everything we want, behind what our spouse needs. **What are some examples of "dying to ourselves" that can be found in relationships?**

#3 All the way back in Genesis chapter 2, God created a "helper" for the first man Adam, who became his wife Eve. The thing about a helper is, it means working together - not one being the boss of the other. Marriage was designed for a man to serve his wife, and a wife to serve her husband. **Is this something you've ever struggled with? How were you able to move past it and get to a better understanding of serving one another?**

#4 You may be wondering, "Why is becoming ONE in spirit so important?" The answer can be found in the words of Jesus from Matthew 12: "A house divided cannot stand." For a marriage (or any kind of relationship) to truly thrive and be all that it can be - two people must be on the same page. **To you personally, why is being on the same page with your spouse so important to you?**

#5 One of the great benefits of becoming one in spirit (our faith) is that it produces godly children. There is nothing greater that a church can do for the children of the next generation than giving them healthier parents. **(Don't forget to sign up for Your Best Night Out on your connection card this Sunday!)** Godly parents are able to model what the Christian life and marriage should look like to their children. This means in good times, and in bad. Yes! It's even healthy for them to learn how to fight as Christians in marriage! **Are you intentional about modeling both the good and bad aspects of a marriage built on faith in God? What are some examples?**

Closing Prayer/Requests (Feel free to ask the group "Would anyone like to close us in prayer?".)

Announcements/Next Steps: Growth Track is the first step toward making an impact with your life at SCC. You can sign up through your group leader today! Baptism is happening on 2/28 and if you are ready to take your next step, you can sign up with your leader for that today as well.