

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of — May 13, 2012

Ice Breaker—What is one piece of advice that you always (or would) give to a couple that is about to get married.

Getting Started

The last 2 weeks, Pastor Jeff laid out a “4-step plan” for marriage. Do you agree that the order of the steps is significant? What do you think is the consequence of doing them out of order?

God’s design is that we be joined relationally to our spouse. What is one area of your friendship that you enjoy the most with your spouse? If single, in your dating relationships?

Pastor Jeff suggested that the habits that are created in the first 6 months of marriage carry on and become the habits of marriage. To what extent do you agree/disagree with this? If married, has this been true for you either positively or negatively? If single, how has this been true in friendships or dating relationships?

Digging Deeper

Read the following passages from Proverbs. Write down how they apply to friendship in marriage. In your groups, have each couple or individual take a verse and talk about what it meant to them.

Proverbs 11:24-25—

Proverbs 12:18 & 18:21—

Proverbs 17:17—

Proverbs 20:5—

Proverbs 27:17—

Taking it Home

Pastor Jeff explained that the “nakedness” of Adam and Eve referred to something other than physical nakedness. In your own words, describe “nakedness” in marriage without any sexual connotation.

Of the 4 steps that Pastor Jeff pointed out, which of them stuck out to you the most and why?

Take some time to think this through and talk about it with your spouse. You do not need to share with the group if you don't want to, but it is important to process — Did you follow these steps in your marriage? In looking at these 4 steps, is there one that you know needs work in your marriage? Talk about practical ways to approach this in your relationship.

