



Discussion Guide | Week 1: Partners, Not Idols | May 17, 2020

OVERVIEW When it comes to any relationship, we each bring a box – an invisible box of hopes, dreams & desires that we carry into that relationship. This is usually healthy & normal. But what happens when those desires become demands? Our hopes, dreams & desires can backfire in any relationship if we don't recognize what they are.

KEY VERSES Romans 15:4-13, Psalm 25:5, Psalm 62:5, Zechariah 10:1-2

REMEMBER What are some of the hopes, dreams & desires that folks often bring into marriage? As a group, make a quick list. To what extent do you think people typically assume marriage can fulfill them? Explain.

REFLECT How would you define the purpose of marriage? What are some of the influences & experiences that shaped your definition? Share.

RESPOND Share about a time when you used one or more of the 4 Cs—convince, convict, control, coerce—to try to fulfill your hopes, dreams & desires in a relationship. How did that work out for you? Why do you think so?

REAL LIFE When you run into conflict in a relationship, is your tendency to leave, try to win, conform, or compromise? How do you sense that the Holy Spirit is challenging you to respond to conflict going forward? Share.

PRAYER Begin your prayer time by having someone in the group read Romans 15:4-6. Have each person share one area of their life where they need hope, endurance or encouragement right now. Then pray over those things.

QUOTES

"An expectation is a strong desire that has been turned into a demand."

"When you get married, you're not committed to a marriage – you're committed to your spouse. That spouse has a name. That spouse is a person."

"OWE me eliminates LOVE me."

A graphic titled 'LUNCH CHAT' in large white letters on a teal background. Below the title, a grey box contains the text: 'ASK YOUR KIDS OR STUDENTS THESE 3 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ONLINE MESSAGE TODAY DURING LUNCH!' In an orange box at the bottom, there is a list of three questions: 1) What are your thoughts on getting Married? Hope to have kids someday? 2) When you run into a conflict do you tend to run, try to win, agree, or try to compromise? 3) Read Ephesians 5:1-2 together. How can you love others in a sacrificial way this week?

