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**I Was Married by a Judge.**

**I should have asked for a Jury!**

A Series on Marriage – LEAVE

February 5, 2023

**Life Group Discussion Guide**

Our Study Guide is a great resource to help you direct your time with the Lord during the week and with your group. You can find the Study Guide each week at: [www.stpaulkodiak.org](http://www.stpaulkodiak.org).

Enjoy your time and let God lead you!

**KICKING IT OFF:**

1. What is your greatest memory from this past Christmas and holiday season?

2. Describe your most memorable Christmas.

**KEY IDEA:**

Marriage is an illustration of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. – Genesis 2:24*

**GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Knowing your spouse, what difference can you identify between you two that has brought tension, and how might that actually benefit your marriage?

1. What have you learned or what insight has God given you this week as you’ve spent time with Him through your daily Bible reading and in prayer this week?

2. What was the most impactful thing you heard from last week’s Life Group of the message from this past weekend?

3. In Genesis 2:18-20, God states that ‘It is not good for man to be alone’. What do you think He means by this? Why do you think the animals weren’t a suitable ‘helper’ for Adam? What does that imply about the relationship God intended for Adam and Eve (Man and Woman)?

4. What do you think it means for man to ‘leave’ his father and mother as we are instructed in Genesis 2:24-25? Discuss what you think it means for a man and woman to be ‘joined’ physically, emotionally and spiritually. What impact do you think it has on a relationship when a man and woman do not ‘leave’ their family the way God intends?

**LOVE LIKE JESUS:**

How does your love of Christ impact your personal relationships, specifically, your relationship with your spouse?

**INTENTIONAL INTIMACY:**

Read Ephesians 5:25-33.

Ephesians 5:25-33 NLT For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body. 31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33 So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Why do you think God uses marriage as an illustration of the relationship between Christ and the Church? What can you learn about marriage from this comparison? What can you learn about your relationship with Christ from this comparison?

**FULLY SURRENDERED:**

Read Luke 5:36-39 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. How is it an act of surrender to become a new creation when you accept Christ? How does this idea apply to the covenant of marriage?

Luke 5:36-39 NLT Then Jesus gave them this illustration: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn't even match the old garment. 37 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. 38 New wine must be stored in new wineskins. 39 But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. 'The old is just fine,' they say."

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

**EXPERIENCE MORE:**

Have you found this topic to be difficult in any way? If so, what can you do or who can you talk with to help you in this area?