

**I Was Married by a Judge.**

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

A Series on Marriage – TRANSPARENCY

February 27, 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. How long have you been married? 2. Has this series helped your marriage?

**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 cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24).

**GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Describe a time when you’ve been transparent with someone about something personal. How did they react to what you shared?

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? (What has God been teaching you?)

2. What was the most impactful thing you heard from your Life Group last week or from the message on the weekend? Why do you think it made such an impact on you?

3. Read Romans 5:6-10.

Romans 5:6-10 NLT When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son.

Transparency exists with God because He knows all that we have done and will ever do. How does an understanding of this principle help you draw closer to God? How does having this type of transparency impact a marriage relationship? Describe how transparency between you and your spouse (or others) is a work in progress.

**LOVE LIKE JESUS:**

What do you think is the value of transparency in a LifeGroup? What does a LifeGroup lose when transparency is not present? What do you think are the necessary components to developing transparency in a LifeGroup? How would you rate your group on a scale of 1 to 10 in this area? What do you think you need in order to improve or grow in this area?

**INTENTIONAL INTIMACY:**

What do you think hinders people from being completely open and honest with God? How do you think understanding Hebrews 4:12-13 can help a person be more transparent with God?

How does this principle apply to personal relationships? How about to a marriage?

Hebrews 4:12-13 NLT For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes, and He is the One to whom we are accountable.

**FULLY SURRENDERED:**

How difficult is it for you to be transparent when you are in the wrong? Why?

**EXPERIENCE MORE:**

What are the four principles of Marriage we have discussed in Genesis 2:24-25? Which principle do you find easiest to live by? Which do you find most challenging? Why? What practical steps are you going to take to grow your marriage?

Genesis 2:24-25 NLT This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. 25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.