



Small Group Questions

Part 3: Dating, Marriage and Parenting

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Read

Matthew 23:11; Proverbs 14:26, 15:1 and 22:6, and v. 15; Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Hebrews 12:11

Reflect

We have so many questions about how to develop, nurture and sustain the relationships in our lives. Josh and Lisa Surratt, Chip Judd, and Stephen Popadich offer us Biblical guidance.

1. As a young Christian in their mid-20s, how should I navigate the dating scene?
 - a. If you are single (hoping and scoping), maximize your singleness.
 - i. This is a time when you are responsible for yourself alone. How are you using this time?
 - ii. In what ways would you say you are preparing to be married?
 - iii. Where are you serving? Are you spending a lot of time thinking about finding the one?
 - b. If you are currently dating right now, stop acting married.
 - i. How might you be taking advantage of the benefits of marriage without the covenant?
 - ii. With blessing following obedience, why does God reserve some things only for marriage?
 - iii. Are you and the person you're dating, serving together in some capacity? How willing are they to serve with you, and you with them? Why is this important?
2. How do you save a marriage after anger and bitterness, or when one doesn't want to work on it?
 - a. If there is abuse, get somewhere safe. Find distance to then better address the issues.
 - b. Whether you have a life-controlling issue or are the person living with someone who has the issue, work on the person you can do the most about: yourself.
 - i. In what specific ways do you need help in taking responsibility for your health?
 - ii. Is the unhealthiest person in the relationship being allowed to make decisions whether to seek help? What is the next step in changing that?
 - iii. Did God bring you two together? Do you believe God knew the unique challenges you would face in the relationship? Why might he have placed you there?
 - iv. What do you consider to be the purpose of marriage? How is marriage a mirror? What does it show you about yourself and what to work on?
 - v. What does God say your part in the marriage is? Who can "outserve" the other?
 - vi. Do you have friends (a community) that will support and fight for your marriage?
3. How do I discipline my kids according to the Bible?
 - a. Are you going to the Lord and praying for wisdom on how to discipline?
 - b. What do you see as the differences between discipline and punishment?
 - c. Are you actively training your children in the way they should go?
 - i. Are you teaching them God's Word? Showing your values by living them?
 - ii. Have you identified specific times for teachable moments in your everyday routine?
 - iii. What resources are you using?
 - iv. How have your children's internal values begun to show and develop?
4. What does the Bible say about spanking and/or yelling at our kids?
 - a. What have you experienced with using a gentle vs. harsh word, and other methods of training?
 - b. Do you ensure you're not angry (take a cooling off period) before administering a punishment?
 - c. Are the methods you're using modeling your love for God, and how best to behave?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?