

“When you get married...”

Series: *Man vs. Wife*

(Part 4 of 4)

Listening Guide Notes

Open: Just for fun! When it comes to handling conflict I typically: a) yell and scream, b) pout for days, c) bury it in silence, or d) pretend it never happened.

Explore: Read Ephesians 4:17-32.

Ephesians was written from a prison cell by Paul the apostle. This book focuses on the new life God created through Christ. In particular, we find God’s expectations for living as Christ followers as well as living in community with others.

1. How would you compare moral standards today to the moral standards in Paul’s day (vs. 17-19)?
2. When a person puts their faith in Christ, there are some changes that take place. What are some of those changes according to verses 20-24?
3. Read through verses 25-31. Why do you believe God has given so many instructions which deal with our relationships? Which set of instructions has God been helping you with over the past 6 months?
4. How is Christ to be our example in all our relationships (vs. 32)?

Reflect: Review key points from the lesson before discussing the questions.

1. During engagement and early marriage, many couples seem to experience a high level of romance and emotional closeness. But as time goes by, they sometimes feel more distant. Why do you think this is?
2. Break into two groups (men and women) and discuss what you believe to be the top five reasons for conflict in marriage today (rank from 1 – 5). After a few minutes, come back together and compare lists.
3. Read Isaiah 53:6. What do you see that helps explain the failure of some marriages to achieve “oneness” or deal with conflict effectively? What do you see from this verse that can help marriages achieve “oneness”?
4. Look over the points from the lesson. Are there any areas of conflict that you and your spouse have dealt with *and* overcome in the past? If so, what was it and how did you handle it?
5. When it comes to conflict, if a husband and wife openly discuss an issue and cannot reach an agreement what do you think should be done?

Apply: Next steps.

As a group: Break into gender friendly groups and answer the following questions. What did you learn during this lesson that can help you build your marriage? What is one thing you can do this week to build unity in your marriage?

With your spouse: Set a time to sit and answer the following questions: 1. What is one area of conflict we are working through at this time? 2. Are there any past hurts that have led to hurt feelings in the present? 3. When can we schedule some time to talk through those issues?

When you get married...

1. Your home is where your spouse is, not where your mom is.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” –Ephesians 5:31 (p. 816)

“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” –Matthew 19:6 (p. 689)

2. Your expectations must include your reality.

“So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.” –Malachi 2:15 (p. 670)

3. Your money is not just your money anymore.

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” –Ephesians 5:21 (p. 816)

4. Your actions will speak louder than your words, but say it anyway.

“...Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” –Ephesians 5:33 (p. 816)