



## Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | October 16, 2022

### Begin with prayer (10 minutes).

Like each week in this series, use the **Prayer of Humility** below to help center your time together on God. To do so, send the prayer out to your group (via text, email, GroupMe, etc.) so everyone has access to it. Then, give your group a few moments to pray in silence and respond to the prompts.

“Lord, I ask that You would prepare my heart for our meeting today.”

“Help me to see each member as You see them.”

*Recall the name and face of each individual in the group.  
Ask for God’s help to see each one for who they are, without judgment.*

“Help me to hear each member in truth.”

*As you think of each individual, ask God for the ability to listen intently.  
Acknowledge any personal struggles or personality conflicts with others.  
Talk these struggles or conflicts over with God.  
Ask for a way to listen without hindrance.*

“Help me to respond in love.”

*Affirm your desire for God to guide the meeting.  
Admit your limitations to fix the problems and struggles of others.  
Acknowledge your inability to fully understand any one person’s story.  
Ask God to draw each member closer to His love through the meeting.*

Once you’ve finished praying, as the host, pray aloud for your group time together.



**Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).**

*Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions of your own for your specific group to discuss. If a portion of your group is unmarried, reframe the questions below to better fit those in that season of life.*

- What's the best piece of marriage advice you've ever heard? What's the worst?
- Growing up, did you have a healthy or unhealthy example of a God-honoring marriage? Explain.
- Now take some time to read Scripture (**1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 10-16, 32-36, 39-40**). Have everyone look up the passage for themselves and then have one person read it aloud. After reading, instruct your group to pause and reflect on what they find challenging, encouraging, or curious from Paul's words. Once a few moments have passed, ask your group to share what stood out and why.
- **Split up the following passages and have different people read them aloud (Matthew 19:4-6; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:7; Hebrews 13:4)**. Then, ask your group to note aloud the different commands given surrounding the topic of marriage. How do these commands and admonitions impact your view of marriage?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned how sometimes we go from experiencing marital *bliss* to experiencing marital *blisters* with our spouse. What do you think are the main causes of marital blisters for most couples today?
- In Dan's sermon, he also talked about how couples should prioritize unity in their relationship. What part of **1 Corinthians 7** did he base that on? What do you think that looks like practically?
- Next, Dan mentioned how when you get married, your future is now not your own. To what end should a Christian couple's future be oriented towards? How would you describe your own marriage (or significant relationship) and its orientation?
- And lastly, Dan shared how in 1 Corinthians 7, Paul makes it clear that if you're married, your marriage is not your own because "the time is short." What would it look like for you and your spouse (or future spouse) to make the most of every opportunity to serve God and advance His Kingdom?
- What's a practical step your group can take to help one another pursue God-honoring marriages?



**Break into gendered groups for accountability and prayer (20 minutes).**

- If married, how would you describe the health of your relationship with your spouse right now? In what ways could it be improved?
- If unmarried, how would you describe the health of your past or current relationships?
- How might you be contributing to your marriage's unhealth? Or how might you have contributed to unhealth in the past?
- What's a practical way in which you could love your spouse better? If you're currently dating, what's a practical way in which you could love your partner better? If you're currently single, what's one way you could prepare to love a future partner well?
- If married, in what ways do you need prayer for your marriage? If unmarried, how can this group pray for you regarding this topic?

**Come back together as one large group and finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What's on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.