



study questions



Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

You can say, "I do." But can you follow through? A promise— even a promise as big as a wedding vow— doesn't mean anything without preparation to back it up. In this message, Dwain has a "to do" list that will prepare you to one day say "I do" and mean it.

Interestingly enough that "to do" list also has a retro effect. Since we are pulling our information from the ancient wisdom of the Bible, this list will positively affect all our family relationships and our relationship with Jesus. Living out these principles can even be used to heal distant and broken marriages and families – AND they will take great one to new heights.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What well-intentioned promises have you made that you couldn't follow through on because of your lack of preparation? (Athletic, academic, professional, family, etc.)
2. **Read Proverbs 14:15 together.** How are simple and prudent people different? What signs might a couple that is "in love" ignore because they are headed down the path of the simple? How can you avoid this trap in your relationships?
3. **Read Mathew 10:37-39 together.** Obviously Jesus is talking about love for him – but love is love because, as we've said, it was invented by our Creator. What do you learn from these statements about how you are to treat your loved ones?
4. What are some specific consequences of bringing your unresolved past into your marriage? Can you identify any holes in your heart that you need to work on now in order to spare your spouse later?
5. Studies show that living together before marriage is actually detrimental to the marriage. Why do you think so many people still make the decision to live together? How have you seen this play out in your life or with your close friends and family?
6. Dwain says that commitment is way overrated and that the paths people choose trump the commitments they make. What does he mean by this? Do you think it's true? Why or why not?
7. How do these thoughts factor into dating and relationship decisions? What path can you make a commitment to, which will prepare you for a long-term successful relationship? How can your group pray for you this week as you seek to do family and love the Jesus way?

MOVING FORWARD

Marriage was not designed to fix things. In fact, oftentimes the bad things only get magnified in marriage. Since that is the case, why not start becoming the person your spouse needs now? Your preparation now is worth way more than your commitment later on. With that in mind, choose one area Dwain mentioned (unresolved past, bad habits, dress, boundaries, etc.) and create a goal. Then list the necessary short-term steps that will set you on a path toward becoming the person that the person you are looking for is looking for. Ask Jesus to send his Spirit to help and guide you in this. You are not, and don't need to be, alone in the wild world of relationships.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways . . . **Proverbs 14:8**

*To hear this message again or others from Eastridge Church, find them at www.eastridgechurch.grow/grow/sermons.

I Doing

Proverbs 14: 8 & 15