

Marriage Attitudes  
Lifegroup Lesson 6/13/10

**Intro:**

Recently, former First Lady Laura Bush has put out a book that exposes some major differences between her and her husband. It's interesting to see that, in particular, their attitudes towards some fairly large political issues don't always line up.

- For those who are married, what are some subject areas that you have discovered differences of attitude between you and your spouse?

*(Leaders Note: Allow this icebreaker question to be quite playful and humorous or let it take your group into some more serious issues that couples have – either way, it will break the ice.)*

**Discussion:**

Use any or all of the following "Attitude Adjustment" questions for tonight's discussion. You may want to do something like cut these questions into slips of paper in a hat and let everyone draw one to read out loud & answer. Or this might be a great night to divide men & women into separate groups. Your call.

*Leaders Note: Let your group know that there is one rule for today's discussion: Answering for your spouse is **not allowed**. You can only answer for yourself.*

1. {Read Phil 4:8} Do you focus on the negatives or positives in your marriage? How does this work for you?
2. {Read 1 Cor 7:33-34} Have you "left" the marriage by emotionally withdrawing? Are you concerned with "how you can please your wife/husband"? Have you given up all attempts to make the relationship better? If so, can you find a way to reengage?
3. {Read Romans 15:7} If you're frustrated because your spouse won't change, is it really necessary that he/she does? Is there anything in your family history that may be driving your need to transform him?
4. {Read Heb 10:24} On the other hand, have you been teaching your spouse the wrong lessons by not challenging their self-defeating or marriage sabotaging behavior? Do you consider HOW to spur your spouse on towards love and good deeds in your marriage, rather than just live with it or get frustrated about it?
5. {Read Eph 4:2} Do you have fun together? Even when things are tough, do you make jokes about it? (A good sign.) If not, can you make time in your marriage for more play?
6. Are there conflicts that you've avoided in the relationship? What do you fear would happen if you confronted them?
7. {Read Col 3:13} Do you hold something against your spouse? Is there anything left unresolved in your heart concerning his or her past (with you or otherwise)?
8. {Read Rom 13:8} Have you done everything you possibly can to make your marriage work? Have you asked your spouse this question? Have you asked your trusted friends and mentors? Have you asked a counselor?

**End in prayer for your marriages.**