

Week 2

The Encouraging Wife



LifeGroup Discussion Guide



How to use This Guide:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Our Main Idea:

Respect and Submission are two words that create controversy in our society today. The Bible has much to say about living happily ever after. An encouraging wife shows respect, and this week we will focus on how women can be better encouragers in their marriages.

Key Questions:

- How would you define respect?
- Mike shared that respect is “to notice, regard, honor, prefer, defer to, encourage, love and admire” Do you agree with this definition of respect? Which area is the hardest?
- Compare Ephesians 5:22-33 and 1 Peter 3:1-7. They are companion passages, written by two different apostles about a similar topic. Compare them as you think about the following questions:
 - Who does the author primarily address in each passage? Another way of asking this is, who is being “preached to” most strongly in each?
 - There is often a break or a new subject header between 1 Peter 3:7 and 8. But what if the author meant for verse 8, and those that follow it, to pertain to marriages also? Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. Does this speak to you and your marriage? Does it even speak to marriages in general—or to other external relationships?
 - If you had to pick one verse or phrase—from any of these passages—that you feel God is telling you to work on and apply to your relationships, what would it be?
- Are you a good encourager? Think about all your relationships. How can you be a better encourager?

Next Steps:

- For husbands: Write down some areas in which your wife can help you in your walk to be a Godly man. Share these with your wife in a caring and loving way.
- For wives: In what specific areas does the Holy Spirit want you to grow in helping, respecting, and submitting to your husbands? Share these with your husband in a caring and loving way.
- For singles: Read the Scripture passages on marriage (Ephesians 5, 1 Peter 3, Colossians 3) Do these passages challenge your views on marriage? Why or why not?

Experience

Your Relationship with God

One of the best things you can do in marriage is pray together. When was the last time you prayed with your spouse? Or prayed for your spouse? Commit to reading the Bible and praying together in your marriage.

Equip

Your Relationship with Others

Many conflicts in marriage are do to unmet expectations. However, many of those expectations are never verbalized. How do you resolve conflict and handle disagreement in a respectful way?

Engage

Your Relationship with the World

Unfortunately, many marriages are struggling. We encourage you to share what you are learning in this series with your friends and family. Look for opportunities to encourage others in their marriage.