

WEEK 5: COMMIT IN COMMUNITY NOT “IT’S JUST BETWEEN US”

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

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MAIN POINT

The world, especially in the West, paints relationships as just between the two people. This hurts both dating relationships and marriages. Those dating miss the wisdom and perspective from community. And cultures that view marriage as the union of families have much lower divorce rates. The individualism in our culture has seeped into our approach to relationships, and it is not good for us. Both dating in private (because of dating apps) and being married in isolation are new to the human experience and are not healthy or helpful. The wise way to date and to be married is in community, where you can benefit from the collective wisdom of others. “Plans fail when there is no counsel,” so invite wise people into the dating and marriage decision and seek examples and community when you are married because “a fool’s way is right in his own eyes.”

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

Who’s someone you go to first when you need advice—and why?

Have you ever made a decision on your own that you later realized would’ve been better if you had asked for advice? What happened?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD’S WORD

Read Proverbs 12:15, 15:22

A fool’s way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise.

Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Read Proverbs 12:15. How would you re-state the main idea of that verse in your own words?

Read Proverbs 15:22. What does this passage tell us about getting counsel or advice from others?

How might these two verses apply to our romantic relationships?

**LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF
GOD'S WORD IN
THE WORLD**

What role have dating apps played in making relationships more private or isolated?

In what ways do you see people in our culture resisting community involvement in their relationships?

How might families, churches, and communities be healthier if relationships and marriages were lived more openly in community?

**LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S
WORD TO YOUR
LIFE**

Who are the wise people in your life that you regularly invite into your decisions and relationships?

Are you more prone to seek counsel or to assume you already know the best way? Why?

How can you cultivate relationships with couples, mentors, or friends who can speak wisdom into your dating or marriage?