

Part 1 – He Said/She Said

Icebreaker: How did you and your spouse meet?

Watch CLIP #1, listed under “Study Guide” in the DVD Bonus features.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

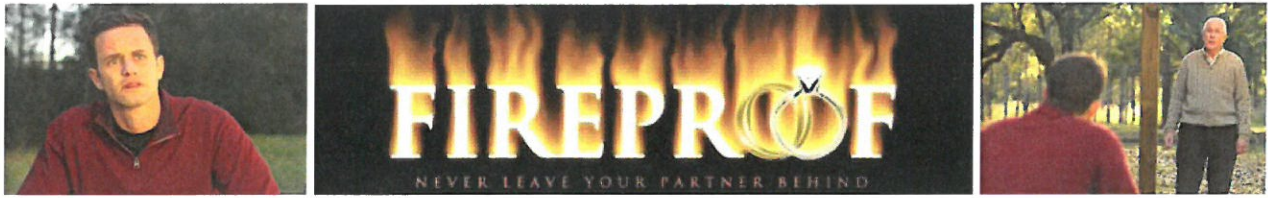
1. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What does respect look like for most husbands? Why is respect such a crucial issue for men?
2. How do you think wives can best show respect for their husbands?
3. How can husbands love their wives by better connecting with them emotionally?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:7. What does sensitivity to feelings look like for most wives? Why is emotional understanding and connection such a crucial issue for women?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:8-9 & Proverbs 15:1. What is the harm in speaking ill of your spouse to your friends, family, or co-workers? What's a better way you can deal with misunderstandings between you and your spouse?
6. Read James 1:19-20. Are you quick to listen and slow to speak when communicating with your spouse?

THE BURNING QUESTION: Without focusing on the shortcomings of your spouse, how can you better fulfill your God-given role in marriage in order to honor your spouse this week?

Prayer: Husbands pray for husbands & wives pray for wives based on your answer to The Burning Question.

Sample: “Dear Lord, I ask you to help _____ to honor his/her spouse by _____. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

“Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:33 (NASB)



Part 2 – The Cross

Icebreaker: What is your testimony? (i.e. How did you come to trust in Christ to save you?)

Watch CLIP #4, listed under “Study Guide” in the DVD Bonus features.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

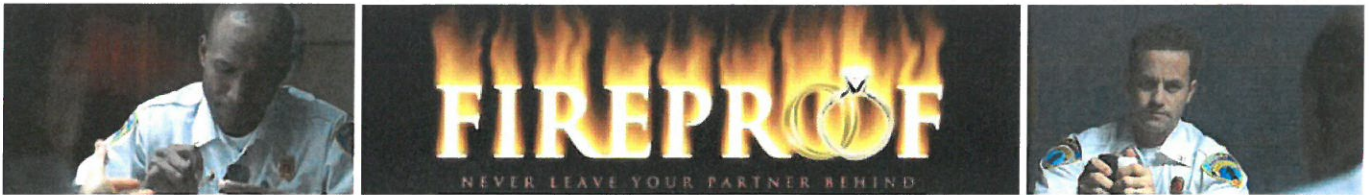
1. When was a time when you tried to love someone, but they didn’t respond in the way you wanted. How did you feel?
2. How would you define unconditional love? What does it look like?
3. Read Romans 5:1-5. What does this verse say about the source of love and our ability to love?
4. Read 1 John 4:7-19. What does this scripture say about a believer’s ability to love? How does this passage encourage you? How does it challenge you?
5. How does experiencing the unconditional love of God empower a person to love others?

THE BURNING QUESTION(s): How is your experience of God unconditional love enabling you to love your spouse in the same way? What keeps you from loving your spouse as Christ first loved you? What can you do to change this situation?

Prayer: Pray for each other based on your answer to the Burning Question.

Sample: “Dear Lord, I lift up _____’s request to you. In Jesus’s name.
Amen.

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 (NASB)



Part 3 – Salt & Pepper

Icebreaker: What is one big difference between you and your spouse?

Watch CLIP #3, listed under “Study Guide” in the DVD Bonus features.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

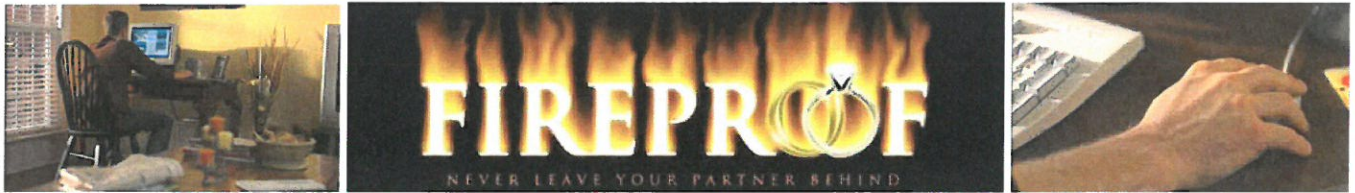
1. What differences do you see between how Michael and Caleb view marriage vows?
2. Read Matthew 19:3-6. How are Jesus’ words similar to Michael’s analogy of super-gluing salt and pepper shakers together? What are some ways people might start to separate in marriage (i.e. physically, emotionally, spiritually)?
3. Why do you think some people seem able to work through their marriage problems and others don’t?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 5:4-5. How should this principle be applied to marriage? How is this principle different than how the world views a marriage commitment (i.e. contingent upon both parties fulfilling their obligations)?
5. Read Malachi 2:13-16 out loud. How does this passage communicate God’s opinion of divorce? Why do you think God’s opinion is so strong on this issue?
6. Read Ephesians 5:20-25. How is Jesus a model of the kind of sacrificial & unconditional love required to have a great marriage?

THE BURNING QUESTION: Will you agree with what God’s Word says about the permanence of marriage? Will you honor your marriage commitment (even if your spouse seems sinful & imperfect)?

Prayer: Pray for each other to be unconditionally committed to your spouse.

Sample: “Dear Lord, help _____ to be unconditionally committed to his/her spouse, just as you are unconditionally committed to us. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

“(Jesus) said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matthew 19:5-6 (NKJV)



Part 4 – Breaking Free

Watch CLIP #5, listed under “Study Guide” in the DVD Bonus features.

(Because the topics of temptation & addiction can be difficult to discuss, break into two groups for this discussion time: Men in one group & women in the other group)

Icebreaker: Tell about a time from your childhood when you gave into temptation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can you relate to Caleb’s struggle? When was a time that you have been tempted to do something wrong & had that experience of feeling restless, wanting to give in?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:5-9. What does this verse assume about the likelihood of temptation in our lives? What are we told here to do about it?
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:22. What does this verse encourage us to do when faced with temptation?
4. Read Matthew 5:27-30. How did Caleb apply Jesus’ teaching? How have you acted similarly? Or how do you need to act similarly?
5. Read Psalm 119:9-11. While it is good to remove the source of temptations from our lives or to remove ourselves from the source of temptation, what does this verse say is essentially for long-lasting victory over sin?
6. Read Romans 12:1-2. How could memorizing an appropriate portion of God’s word help you to renew your mind (i.e. change the way you think about temptation) and help you to overcome it?

THE BURNING QUESTION(s): Will you learn to resist temptation by the power of God & His Word or continue to live in sin? What action step do you need to take? What verse do you need to memorize?

Prayer: Pray for each other based on your answer to the Burning Question.

Sample: “Dear Lord, I lift up _____’s request to you. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)



Part 5 – Forgiveness

Icebreaker: What was your first big fight as a married couple about?

Watch CLIP #6, listed under “Study Guide” in the DVD Bonus features.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Colossians 3:12-15. What qualities from this passage did Caleb demonstrate? How did this impact his relationship with his wife?
2. Read Ephesians 4:15. How is Caleb’s truth-speaking about his past treatment of her an essential part of his apology? Why is thoroughly recognizing your wrong-doing so important when asking for someone’s forgiveness?
3. Read Romans 5:10 & Luke 23:33-34. How does remembering the forgiveness God has given to you, help you to be willing to forgive others?
4. How have you set conditions for forgiveness with your spouse or others in the past?
5. Read Matthew 18:21-35 & Ephesians 4:26-27. What does Jesus’ parable reveal or imply about the possible dangers of unforgiveness in our lives? What does the Ephesians verse teach about the potential consequences of unforgiveness?

THE BURNING QUESTION(s): Is forgiveness hindering your relationship with God or with your spouse? Is there anything for which you need to ask forgiveness? How do you plan to deal with this?

Prayer: Pray for each other based on your answer to the Burning Question.

Sample: “Dear Lord, I lift up _____’s request to you. In Jesus’s name. Amen.

“When you stand to pray, forgive anyone against whom you have a grievance, so that your heavenly Father may in turn forgive you your transgressions.” Mark 11:25-26 (NASB)



Part 6 – Loving Better

Icebreaker: What is one of the best gifts your spouse has ever given you?

Watch Scene# _____, from the full-length movie.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Philippians 2:3-4. How do you think Caleb's actions reflected this passage? Why do you think selflessness can make such a big impact on another person?
2. Read Romans 5:6-8. What words or phrases from this passage convey God's unconditional love for us?
3. How do you tend to make love conditional? What are some of the conditions you apply to loving your spouse?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. List each of the 15 characteristics of love below:

Which of these characteristics does your spouse display consistently?

5. Which of these characteristics do you struggle to display?

THE BURNING QUESTION(s): Will you commit to growing in unconditional, God-like love for your spouse? What action will you take to display this love to your spouse?

Prayer: Pray for each other based on your answer to the Burning Question.

Sample: "Dear Lord, I lift up _____'s request to you. In Jesus's name. Amen."

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)