



Note to Leaders: Every Small Group is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

INTRODUCTION

We all enter into marriage with hopes, dreams, and desires. The only way to keep them from becoming expectations is to decide your spouse doesn't owe you. As long as you think your spouse owes you, your marriage is transactional. It's all about relational debt and keeping score. That destroys intimacy. It destroys love. But what's wrong with having hopes, dreams, and desires? What are we supposed to do with them?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever seen someone try to deal with unmet expectations by ignoring them, staying busy, or finding someone else?
2. Do you ever try to deal with your unmet expectations by pretending you don't care about them or keeping yourself busy with work or family? If so, how has that worked out for you?
3. Have your unmet expectations ever undermined the quality of a relationship?
4. The missing ingredient in most marriages isn't love, it's grace. Love may have caused us to get married, but we need grace to keep that love healthy, strong and committed.
 - a. Read 1 Peter 5:5–7. Is there an area of your relationship about which you need to ask, “What would a humble person do?” What can you do this week to “cast your cares” on God? How can this group support you?
 - b. Read Romans 13:8 and Matthew 18:21–22. How can you show grace more regularly to your partner/spouse?
 - c. In a relationship, no one can give you 100% of what you desire/expect. People leave the 80% that they love to get the 20% that they want. What is that 80% of your spouse that you love? Share it with the group.

MOVING FORWARD

Happy couples don't let their desires become expectations. Happy couples know to unload their frustrations on God. He invites it. And if you allow him to, he will do something remarkable in your life and marriage.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:5b–7