

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Connect Members to One Another

If you are married, how many years have you and your spouse been together?

Tell the group how you met.

If you are not married, how have your positive or negative experiences (e.g., your parents' divorce; your grandparents' 65th wedding anniversary) affected your view of marriage?

Connect Members to God

In the message we learn that the way we prioritize relationships has implications for how we love God and our spouse. Pastor Schlie illustrates this with an “ultimate love triangle” graphic that puts God at the top, your spouse next in line, and everyone else (including kids and parents) after him or her.

Have you ever heard that marriage should be prioritized this way?

If you are married, do you feel that you prioritize your relationship in this order? Does your spouse?

If you are unmarried, does this change the way you view the marriage relationship?

Message Application

Consider the story Pastor Schlie tells about expectations that carry over from childhood experiences. He uses the example of spouses having different dinner time traditions in their families that can create misunderstandings.

What kind of expectations did you bring into your marriage? (If you're not married, name some expectations you might bring in.)

Did you have a particular tradition in your birth family that conflicted with your spouse's traditions? How did you resolve the issue?



DISCUSSION NOTES


