

**This is a discussion guide based upon CRBC sermons. The questions provided below are for Home Group Leaders to utilize in facilitating discussion within their group. Home Group Leaders are encouraged to take these questions, re-arrange them, omit as required, add as required and change as required in order to best create a close Christian family that feels safe and secure to be open about their lives and their Christian walk. Please tailor as necessary based upon your leadership style and group dynamics.*

Additionally, if there are any questions, comments, critiques, inputs, etc... Please email Michael Griffin at airforce_griffin@yahoo.com.

ICE BREAKER:

Hardwood floors, tiles or carpet?

SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 18:20-26
2 Samuel 6:16
James 4:1

QUESTIONS:

- What are some examples of contracts that you can enter into?
- Can you name some of the covenants that God has made in the Bible?
 - Adamic Covenant - God's curses against mankind for the sins of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15-19)
 - Noah's Covenant - God promised humanity that He would never again destroy all life on earth with a flood (Genesis 8:20-22)
 - Abrahamic Covenant - Abraham would have many descendants, his descendants would become a great nation, all nations would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7; 13:14-17; 15; 17:1-14; 22:15-18)
 - Land Covenant - If the people of Israel disobeyed God they would be scattered, but at some point they would be restored and would obey God (Deuteronomy 29-30:1-10)
 - Mosaic Covenant - Conditional covenant between the people of Israel and God. If the people were obedient, they would be blessed. If they were disobedient, they would be cursed (Deuteronomy 11)
 - Davidic Covenant - David's lineage would last forever and that his kingdom would never pass away permanently (2 Samuel 7:8-16, Luke 1:32-33)
 - New Covenant - Made between God and first, Israel, and ultimately with every nation. God will forgive all sins and there will be universal knowledge of God (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- Why are contracts concerned about you and covenants concerned about the other party?

- Is marriage a contract or a covenant? Does calling a marriage a covenant change how you view it?
- Does God take His covenants seriously? Do you believe that marriage is a covenantal relationship between a husband and a wife before God? If the latter statement is true, then how does this shape the mindset we should have about marriage?
- What are the three most common reasons that Pastor Rick cited for a marriage to end? Adolescence (i.e. my spouse will not grow up and act responsibly), Adultery, Abandonment (i.e. my spouse left me and there is nothing I can do about it)
- *Leaders, use your discretion and discernment on this next question:* Have you ever been divorced? Would you be willing to share what happened? Were your parents divorced? How did that affect you as a kid?
- Pastor Rick made this statement, “Your marriage can survive anything if you are both willing to do the work.” Do you believe this to be true? Why or why not?
- Pastor Rick also made this statement, “We [people] believe that if we find the right person that everything in life will be easy.” Do you believe that marriage will be fulfilling, easy and amazing if you could only find the “right” person to marry?
- Pastor Rick says that the Bible never mentions you should marry the “right” person. However, it mentions several times that we should control what we think about. What happens to us, to our minds, our hearts and our attitudes when we allow ourselves to start thinking, “I have married the wrong person.”?
- Let’s make some assumptions. You and your spouse are just both broken individuals with both good and bad qualities. They is not any abuse or adultery. Is there a danger in hanging out with “friends” who are constantly telling you to be with someone else, or pursue “greener pastures” or do what makes you feel happy? Or is better to have close Christian friends that you can be real and vulnerable with about your marriage problems, who will not trash your partner but listen to you and will help you to see where you are failing and encourage the sanctity of marriage?
- Pastor Rick made this powerful statement, “What if marriage were not about making you happy, but making you holy?” What do you think about this statement? Pastor Rick describes three marriages arranged by God. What were they?
 - Isaac and Rebekah, Hosea and his wife, the harlote and Joseph and Mary
 - Were any of these marriages for happiness? Do you think any of these marriages were challenging?
- Can you find joy in marriage? Can you find sorrow in marriage? Is marriage about happiness? What happens when you make marriage about happiness versus holiness?