



# GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2023 | CUMULATIVE EFFECT

## WARM-UP QUESTION

If you had a completely open day, how would you spend your time?

## DISCUSS

- Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read Genesis 2:18-25

- What observations can you make as you read this account of the first marriage?
- Describe some of the characteristics of Adam and Eve's relationship in these verses.
- Why do you think God specifically created Eve from Adam's rib, rather than creating her separately like he did with Adam? What does this tell us about God's design for marriage?
- Verse 25 reveals that before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve did not experience shame. What would marriage look like in the absence of shame and in the presence of complete openness and vulnerability? How can we live more openly and without shame in relationships?
- How can this passage inspire healthier marriages? Whether or not you are married, what can this passage teach you about God?

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

- What stands out to you as you read Paul's instructions for healthy marriages?
- What differences do you see in the roles of the husband and the wife? What similarities can you see in their roles?
- Wives are instructed to submit to their husbands. What does biblical submission look like in marriage?
- Husbands are instructed to love their wives as Christ loved the church. What does it mean to love sacrificially, as Christ did?
- As verse 32 mentions, how is marriage an illustration of how Christ and the church are one?
- How can unmarried individuals apply the principles in this passage to their own lives? What can they learn from Paul's instructions to married couples?

## RESPOND

- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.