

Gospel Centered Marriage Facilitator Guide

Lesson 5 – Feb 5 2012

Key Principle: Grace means we can always begin again and again

Testimonies letters/discussions

WotD –

Large Group 1. Introduction to the topic

Small-group discussion. *(notes in italics are suggested “answers” – only facilitator has these – you have 20 min for this exercise.)*

Start -- help your tablemates know each other.

- Be sure all can say each others' names – If someone is visiting the first time to class, write name/email on the back of this sheet for us.
- Get-to-know-you exercise: What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten and what were the circumstances?

Study together. Read aloud Titus 3:3-8

1. How does the description in v3 affect our relationship with the opposite sex in general or your spouse in particular? *(As self-centered sinful beings, we all bring baggage, wounds, prejudices, and failures to our relationships. These naturally taint ongoing relationships until redeemed and restored by Christ.)*
2. V3 describes how things at one time. How does Paul describe Christians in the present? *(saved...in order to become heirs...and to live differently by our good works)*
3. What has happened to make this change? *(The grace of God appeared. See also Titus 2:11-14.)*
4. What might the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (v5) mean for sexual sins or other past sins? *(see 1 Cor 6:9-11 that describes this washing and its outcome. The key is that we are made new.)*

Discuss together. Read the Article by Keller – “You Never Marry the Right Person”

1. What new idea does this article bring to you? Do you agree or disagree?
2. How does the Gospel speak to this notion of marrying a sinner? *(have truthful expectations, rely on Christ, eagerly embrace repeated repentance and reconciliation by grace.)*
3. If marriage is painful and hard, as the biblical doctrine of sin suggests, how can the church community be helpful in your struggles?

Take-home: *please encourage all to write their letters to spouses and discuss the quote – continue momentum!*

If time allows, take time to pray for each other

Prayer requests (please record any concerns or prayer requests that are marriage or relationship-related) – who and what/why.

Titus 3:3-8

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

1 Cor 6:9-11

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.