

SERMON SERIES: We Are Family
SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
SPEAKER: Mike Woodruff
DATE: April 29-30, 2017

Small Group Discussion Guide

for leaders (see below for participants' guide)

Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

Getting Acquainted

- **What is one takeaway from your last small group meeting? How are you doing putting it into practice in your life?**
 - As routine opener to group meetings, this question encourages individuals to apply your discussions in their lives. It also brings continuity & intentionality from meeting to meeting.
- **What is the most important relationship advice you've received?**
 - This question sets the stage for the Bible Exploration and helps people get to know one another on a personal level.

Bible Exploration

- **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a group and reflect on the Scripture's teaching about love in relationships. What statements stand out and why? Discuss.**
- **Of the qualities listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which are the easiest for you display? Which are the most difficult? Give an example if you can think of one.**
- **In his sermon, Mike makes two big points from the Bible's teaching on relationships. In what ways do these points challenge your views or choices in relationships?**
 - Relationships are not about finding the right person, they are about becoming the right person.
 - Marriage is bigger than physical intimacy and living together; it is a union of two people based on covenant and commitment.
 - Mike pointed out that sex and living together before marriage, while expected in our culture, actually make marriage more difficult and less likely to last.
 - He also pointed out that, no matter our choices or experiences in the past, God invites all of us onto a path forward that leads to rich and meaningful

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relationships with him and others.

- **What is one takeaway from this week's discussion you can begin applying to your life this week? Be specific, and be prepared to share next time how it went.**

Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of "conversational" prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.

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Prayer