

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1) How do you see these scriptures paint the picture of God's dream for marriage?
 - ~ Gen 2:21-25
 - ~ Mal 2
 - ~ Eph 5:22-32
 - ~ Matt 19:1-6
 - ~ 1 Peter 3:1-7
- 2) How have you experienced the dream of life long love in the lives of society in general?
- 3) In what kinds of way have you experienced the dream of life long love personally?
- 4) What brings you "in touch" with the dream?
- 5) What do you think are some of the major threats to the "marriage dream" in our culture?
- 6) What has threatened your marriage dream?
- 7) What have you learned in your marriage about how to "fight" or how not to fight?

Oxford Dictionary of American English: "To be very anxious to challenge or avoid criticism; to expect or resist criticism or attack."

- 8) How would you define defensiveness?
 - ~Have you ever vilified each other in your marriage?
 - ~ Have you ever seen yourself as the "hero"

George Carlin: "There are two kinds of drivers in the world. Maniacs who drive faster than I do, and idiots who drive slower."

- 9) What does the Bible have to say about defensiveness?
 - ~ Gen 3:11-13
 - ~ James 5:16
 - ~ Rev 3:19
 - ~ Prov 12:1
- 10) David; a man after God's own heart? Why do you think he was given this description?
- 11) Consider the following passages that he wrote, or were written about him:
 - ~ Ps. 139:23-24
 - ~ Ps 141:5
 - ~ 2 Sam 16:5-13
 - ~ 2 Sam 12:1-13
 - ~ How do you feel about David's willingness to accept correction?
 - ~ What's your response when someone (your spouse) points out a character flaw?
 - ~ What are alternative responses to defensiveness?
- 12) What have been some of the best things you have done to strengthen your marriage?
- 13) What are some things you would like to do this year that could help keep the dream of life long love strong in your marriage?