



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Philippians 2:1-8

By definition, the life of a Christ follower looks different than the lives of those who are not. If we act like everybody else does then maybe we need to re-examine how Christ asks us to live. God's design for Christian relationships (especially marriage) is unity and oneness. Sin is the enemy's strategy to break oneness in our marriage; do not let him get a stronghold! The greatest hindrance to all human relationships is pride and selfishness. If selfishness and pride are not rooted out of our relationships they will eventually be the death of the relationship. We must reflect Christ to overcome these relationship killers.

Pray

Lord, thank you for the guidance for godly relationships that you have provided for us. When we do marriage and relationships your way, it works. Help us focus on loving those around us better than we love ourselves, show us ways we can put others' needs above our own. Lord, give us the strength to model Jesus, not just in our marriage relationship, but in all of our relationships.

Getting Started

- What types of things do you think go into training for a marathon?
- What are some ways that running a marathon are similar to marriage?

Digging Deeper

1. Do you feel you could use the term "oneness" describe your relationship? Why or why not?
2. Do you have closeness and unity among your Christian relationships? If you asked those people, do you think they would feel the same towards you? What creates this kind of closeness?
3. How can difficult times in your marriage/relationship bring you closer to Christ?
4. Do you believe God is everything he says he is? Do you believe he can restore a broken relationship that is painful to you?
5. Do you trust God to use your life for his purpose? How is he using you to meet the needs of your spouse?
6. Read Philippians 2:1-8. God calls each of us to do our part regardless of whether or not our spouse is (or other people are) doing theirs. How does Philippians 2:1-8 challenge you to model Jesus in your relationships?
7. What will you do differently this week to more closely align your life to this challenge?

Living Jesus

Here is what Philippians 2:1-8 can look like when you apply it to your life this week:

- Choose to see and treat others as if they were more valuable than yourself. As Christ followers God has called us to a different standard so even when we disagree with someone we can value and respect their presence and their place in our life.
- Choose to put other peoples' needs above your own. That is the very definition of love, putting someone's interests above our own.
- Choose to model Jesus in all your relationships. That is Living Jesus!