



Broken Together

Serving Jesus in Marriage

Week of August 19, 2018

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 Galatians 5:22-23a,
Philippians 2:4-7a, and
1 Peter 4:10

We marry to be loved. But maybe God brings our broken together for us to *learn* to be love and be like his Son. YOU are the one Jesus sent to serve your marriage; and “serving” is the act of loving your husband or wife toward the life of Christ! The question isn't, “What would it take to be 'happy' in my marriage?” God creates something deeper than happy – all that's broken becoming “whole” (Galatians 5:22-23a). When your spouse chooses to let “broken” win in their life, it doesn't have to win in yours...no matter what. The big question is, “Who's interests will I serve with *my* life?” You were sent to serve your marriage.

Pray

Lord, thank you for loving us! Thank you for adopting us as your children and giving us an identity in you. We pray that we would learn to love and be love, beginning with our marriages. Remind me Lord that my marriage was never meant to make me “happy” but to shine a light on what is broken so that you could make it whole. Let my relationship with my spouse be a reflection of my relationship with you. I know that Jesus Christ is the one person who can make me whole and I pray that we could move towards that first by me serving my spouse. Amen.

Getting Started

- What did (do) you think marriage would (will) be like before being married? Tell how you found out you had the wrong idea?
- How was your view of marriage affected by what you experienced growing up?

Digging Deeper

1. What if you looked at marriage so it was about changing you instead of changing your spouse? How could this be a better view of marriage?
2. Read John 20:21. The keys to Jesus' identity are the same as ours as his followers – we are the children of God *and* we are servants. What should this look like in our marriages?
3. Discuss how or why we can become focused on fixing our spouse. Does it ever work? Why or why not?
4. Read the following quote and discuss what this would look like in the context of marriage: “Weep deeply over the life you hoped for. Then wash your face. Trust God, and embrace the life you have.” - John Piper
5. Do you know anyone who stands out as an example of serving their spouse? Share some things that set their marriage apart.
6. Consider and discuss how you could be a better servant in your marriage. If you are bold enough, make a specific claim in front of your spouse about how you will better serve them in your marriage.

Living Jesus

Jesus is the one person who can make you whole. You cannot expect that of anyone else, even your spouse. *Your* faith cannot be shaken by your spouse's choices or actions. Shift your focus from fixing your spouse's brokenness to being broken in the presence of Jesus. Pray to God – Lord, I'm the one who needs to be fixed. Work on *me*.

What's Your Story?

Do you have an example of a servant-based marriage, or a time when Jesus changed you when you were trying to “fix” your spouse? Would you be willing to share it with us to help encourage others in their marriages? If so, please follow the instructions below.

>> Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you.