

flourish

GROWING IN GOD'S GARDEN OF GRACE

DATE: May 21, 2023

RECAP: God wants you to flourish in your marriage. Before we flourish in our marriages, we must flourish in Christ through the Holy Spirit's power. Our "in Christ-ness" is what fuels every other area of our lives, including marriage. Pastor Derwin and Vicki shared five ways in which we can flourish in marriage: (1) Loving Jesus more than your spouse, (2) Loving yourself correctly, (3) giving your trauma to Jesus, (4) forgiving quickly, and (5) protecting each other emotionally. Upward. Inward. Outward. First, we must receive God's unconditional love for us, then we love ourselves correctly by seeking Jesus and the healing He offers us. From there we are able to love our spouse compassionately by offering the same forgiveness we have been offered, keeping short accounts of wrong, and caring for one another's well-being.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- If you are married, reflect on your relationship. What have been some of the challenges you all have faced? What have been some of the rewards?
- If you are not married, what has been your view of marriage? How was marriage modeled for you growing up? How has this impacted you?
- Read Ephesians 5:25. It says that husbands ought to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. How did Jesus love the Church? How does this inform husbands on how they should love their wives?
- Pastor Derwin and Vicki shared on the importance of people giving their trauma to Jesus rather than to their spouse. What happens when we give our trauma to our spouse rather than to Jesus? What does it look like to give your trauma to Jesus?
- Forgiveness is part of every human relationship. Think about a time someone forgave you (maybe it was a spouse, a parent, or a friend), how did that forgiveness impact you?
- Why is it important to forgive others? (Read Ephesians 4:32 for guidance)
- Are there any boundaries to forgiveness? What does forgiveness actually look like in everyday life?
- Read Ephesians 5:33. What does a wife respecting her husband look like? Why is this important in the marital relationship?
- Take some time at the end of your group to pray over all the relationships represented, whether they are marital relationships, parent/child, friendships, etc. We can all commit to loving and respecting one another.