

Small Group Discussion Questions



// Week of March 10, 2024

LEADER INFO

- Easter is coming up!
 - Saturday, March 30th - 2:30pm & 4:30pm
 - Sunday, March 31st - 8:00am, 9:30 & 11:15am
- If anyone needs support in the area of issues surrounding sex, relationships or body image, invite them to text the word "CARE" to 604-670-3040

GROW This section is based on the sermon from Sunday. You can find it here: <https://www.southsidelife.com/>

ICE BREAKER What was one highlight of your week? One lowlight?

The Right One

"I want to tell you about a miracle that happened to me that I hope can inspire you."

Read

Mark 10:9

Therefore what God has bound together should not be broken

Genesis 2:18-25

18-20 GOD said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion."
So GOD formed from the dirt of the ground all the animals of the field and all the birds of the

air. He brought them to the Man to see what he would name them. Whatever the Man called each living creature, that was its name. The Man named the cattle, named the birds of the air, named the wild animals; but he didn't find a suitable companion.

21-22 GOD put the Man into a deep sleep. As he slept he removed one of his ribs and replaced it with flesh. GOD then used the rib that he had taken from the Man to make Woman and presented her to the Man.

23-25 The Man said,

“Finally! Bone of my bone,
flesh of my flesh!

Name her Woman

for she was made from Man.”

Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. They become one flesh. The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they felt no shame.

1. Finding “The Right One”

- a. How do you think popular culture (movies, books, the internet...) influences what women look for in relationships? What about men?

- b. How can looking for *anyone but Jesus to fulfill you* lead to resentment in relationships?

- c. What's the shallowest thing you've heard someone say about what they were looking for in a partner?
 - i. What's the shallowest thing you've thought you needed from a partner?

2. The Miracle

- a. Pastor Mike described the miracle that took place when he felt that he could be real in speaking with Corinne: “We both said ‘Here is ME. My hopes, plans, victories, guilt, shame, aspirations, failures...’ We spent hours that night just being real.”

i. Single People:

1. If you're dating someone, there's a fine line between someone who likes pieces of you but not other pieces, and someone who wants to cheer you on to become everything God created you to be.
 - a. What do you think is required to create a profound friendship?
 - b. What does it feel like to connect with someone (friend or otherwise) who calls out the truest version of you?
 - c. Why should you run from someone (whether dating or in friendships) who makes you feel pressured to not be your true self?
 - d. How are you feeling in the area of relationships? How can this group pray for you or support you?

ii. Married people:

1. Pastor Mike shared about the miracle of marriage is that it's a spiritual relationship, and it's emotional, sexual, mental... It's intricate and can be tipified as a soul-level friendship.
 - a. He said that the actual miracle that happened was being able to take off every mask and say to each other "here is me."
 - i. How does your spouse encourage you to be the truest version of yourself?
 - ii. Describe a time when you can remember God using your spouse to cheer you on.
 - iii. When was the last time you sat down together and shared your hopes, dreams, guilt, shame, aspirations...?
 1. If it's been a while, when will you schedule a time to do that this week?

3. The Role of Sex

- a. Once you've placed your faith in Jesus, and you become a Christian, this is God's order for us in the area of sex and relationships:
 - 1. Your initial faith turns into real trust in Jesus
 - 2. God gives you the courage to be real with people, and find deep friendships
 - 3. For some: your next step might be meeting someone with whom you'll be "more than friends"
 - 4. Eventually, you're ready to make a commitment and a covenant with that person, saying "God, just like you bound me together, can you now just bind us together?" And He does. That's marriage.
 - 5. Then sex, which is amongst other amazing things that come along with a lifetime of friendship. Cheering each other on to be the best versions of yourselves.

- No matter what your own story has looked like up until this point, why do you think God designed it in that order?

- b. Christians and churches often cheapen things by emphasizing "You gotta get married, THEN you can have sex! That's the real prize!"
 - i. What did you grow up thinking that the church thought about sex?

 - ii. Pastor Mike made the illustration about Disneyland and Dole Whip. Christians often talk about sex like it's Disneyland, but it's more like the Dole Whip you get there - an awesome part of it, but certainly not the point of why you go to Disneyland.
 - 1. The point is that we have the opportunity for an incredible, deepening friendship in marriage. Sex is the Dole Whip - awesome, but not the best part.
 - a. Discuss

PRAY