



# Sermon Discussion Guide


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## The Marital Fail

Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:25  
Ray Cortese, October 8 & 9, 2016

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 19:3-9 and Ephesians 5:25. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Ray said, "The demise of marriage is the number one cause of our cultural decline." Do you agree or disagree, and why? Fifty percent of all marriages end in divorce. How has divorce affected your family, extended family, or someone you know?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

#### THE MARITAL FAIL: THE DIAGNOSIS

Marriages fail due to lack of transcendent purpose

- 3 What is problematic with getting married because of infatuation, or physical attraction?
- 4 What is the American purpose for life and marriage? How does this contradict, or work against, God's purpose for life and marriage?

## Marriages fail due to impossible expectations

- 5 What types of things do we turn to in order to fill the God-shaped hole in our soul? Why is marriage so tempting as an option for the above?
- 6 Discuss the following quotes.

*Until God has the right place in your life, you will never be satisfied in your marriage.*

*Realizing your spouse cannot fulfill you is not the prelude to the end of your marriage, but rather the death of an idol and the beginning of hope.*

## Marriages fail due to lack of ability

- 7 Have you ever resolved to be a better spouse, but then been disappointed by your inability to do so?
- 8 Has God opened up your eyes to allow you to see that you are the biggest sinner in your marriage? What happens in a marriage if both people start to really believe that?

## THE MARITAL FAIL: THE REMEDY

- 9 In your own words, what is the remedy for marital failure?
- 10 What was the point of the illustration about Captain Sullenberger, the pilot who landed a plane full of passengers on the Hudson River?

## Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?