



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.  
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

## WEEK 2

04/30/2017

**Note to Leaders:** This week's message talked about identifying a potential spouse. It continued the theme of last week's message—building character. The biggest key to relational success is determined by the character of each individual. As you discuss the message, evaluate your expectations, criteria, and hope for a spouse through the lens of the biblical picture.

These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

### Sermon Questions

1. Where there any "aha" moments for you in the message?
2. What would you summarize as the main point of Sunday's message?

#### Message Notes:

"Are you the person the person you are looking for is looking for?" - Andy Stanley

Advice is gold

Boundaries are vital

Character is king

"Many claim to have unending love, but a faithful person who can find?" Proverbs 20:6

3. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
4. What did you take away from the story of Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis 24?

### Discussion Questions

1. How do you picture a healthy marriage? What elements does it possess?
2. Can you identify a couple of reasons why marriages breakdown? Try to move beyond simple actions and consider some of the character or personality issues that drive those actions.

3. What characteristics or standards are put forth in the Bible for a healthy and godly marriage? (Ephesians 5:18-33; Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 5:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5; James 1:19, 3:17; Proverbs 17:9)
4. Looking at the story of Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24), what character strengths did Rebekah and her family possess?
5. What role do values and shared faith have in a strong relationship? How do you discover these in a potential, or current, spouse?
6. Why were Abraham's instructions, "Not to choose a wife from among the Canaanites," so important? How does this instruction transfer to our current contexts?
7. How you define attraction is important. Keller talks about understanding "attraction" in the most comprehensive sense, stating that many people choose their marriage partner on the basis of looks and money—rather than character, mission, future-self, and personal story—then often find themselves married to a person they don't really respect that much.

What are some pitfalls of trusting in power or looks when choosing a spouse?

If you have already married, how do you develop or maintain attraction to your spouse?

8. How can you get a deeper understanding of the individual before you commit?

If you are already married, how can you continually deepen your understanding of each other? Why is this important during different stages of your marriage?

### **Prayer Requests**

Take a few minutes to go around the room and ask for prayers. Write these down as they are being shared. Additionally, challenge people to begin praying about the step of boldness God may be calling them to during this series. Finally, pray together. You can pray the prayer below or your own prayer that incorporates the requests represented in the group.

#### *Optional Breakout into Men and Women for Prayer*

To develop deeper community and accountability, this topic lends itself to separating into two different groups for men and women during prayer. Instead of taking prayer requests in a co-ed setting, share with the group that men will gather in one spot and women in the other. Ask, "was there something in this message that challenged you" or "is there an area in your relationship(s) that you'd like prayer". Encourage each person to share a need or desire related to this week's message for which they would like prayer. Being specific will help deepen the conversation and

prayer time, it doesn't have to be long but push for honesty and openness. Separating men from women should help with this.

**Closing Prayer**

Father, transform my life that it may reflect the character, values, and holiness of Christ. Guide me as I develop relationships with those around me. Open my eyes to see beyond the surface and seek understanding. May my heart be attuned to scripture that it might direct my life and my relationships. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.