

Session 2:

Getting Started:

1. How would you describe a "Happily Ever After" story?
2. When you think of marriage, what thoughts or emotions come to mind?

Read: Ephesians 5:22-33

(Then read the Message Paraphrase of these scriptures.)

- How would you compare the two versions of the scripture? Does the Message Paraphrase help you understand the meaning of those scriptures?
- What emotions do you feel as you read these two versions of the Ephesians scriptures?
- When understood in their proper context, these scriptures are meant to elevate the status of both people in a marriage. How have you experienced that in these scriptures or how have others misused or weaponized them?
- Jim explained that these scriptures paint a picture of a beautiful partnership filled with unconditional love and the use of an individual's gifts, strengths, and weaknesses. How are you doing in your role as described in these verses or how are you doing at :
 - For Wives: How are you doing with supporting and cherishing your husband?
 - For Husbands: How are you doing at using each other's gifts, strengths, and weaknesses in your partnership?
 - For Unmarried: How are you doing at reflecting Christ's love for the church in your relationships? How are you using your gifts to love and support others?
- How would it feel to be in a marriage or relationship where one person was not fulfilling their Ephesians 5 role? How would it feel to be assured that your spouse would fulfill their role?

Read: 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

- What do these scriptures teach those who are unmarried?
- What advice would you give to a married couple based on these scriptures?

Wrap Up:

As you pray together, ask God to give you wisdom to understand scripture. Pray that each person, single or married, would feel the sacrificial love of Jesus and would show that love to others, especially in their family relationships.

Memory Verse:

*"Above all, love each other deeply,
because love covers over a multitude of sins"
1 Peter 4:8 NIV*

*Creating My
Happily Ever After*