



# *Commitment Testing*

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*A Foundation for Biblical Marriage*

*Developed by*

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## **Commitment Testing – Week 1 – Who are You?**

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*Group discussion*

Two questions to answer before getting married.

Are you a Christian?

Are you going to lead? ...to follow?

What is your history?

Tell a moment in your life that really helped to define who you are.

Tell about your marriage or relational past.

How did you come to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord?

Tell what made you decide to follow Jesus.

Tell what your commitment level is to Jesus.

Describe your daily walk with God.

How do these play out in your relationship?

How did you meet?

Why did you decide to get married?

Where are you with your intimacy levels?

What are your living arrangements?

## **Preparation for Next Week:**

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*Questions to be answered individually and discussed together*

Read Genesis 1 and 2.

What kind of world did God create?

Was there anything lacking in the world God created?

Why are men and women created last?

What insights do you gain about men and women?

Why was Eve made? (Who was with Adam before Eve was made?)

Describe the relationship that Adam and Eve were to have?

How did that change their relationship with God?

Fun discussion: How did you meet?



## **Commitment Testing – Week 2 – The Couple's Creation**

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*Group discussion* - Genesis 1 and 2.

What kind of world did God create? What words does God use to describe it?

Was there anything lacking in the world God created? Is this how the world looks now?

Why are men and women created last? What is special about them? What are they here to do?

What insights do you gain about men and women together? What insights do you gain about differences between men and women?

Why was Adam made? What was he told to do and not do? Was Eve there?

Why was Eve made? (Who was with Adam before Eve was made?)

How was Adam made? How was Eve made?

What was Adam's response to Eve? What was God's response to Adam and Eve?

Describe the relationship that Adam and Eve were to have? What abilities do they have relationally, etc.?

How did that change their relationship with God?

How does this apply today to you and to your marriage?

## **Preparation for Next Week:**

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*Questions to be answered individually and discussed together*

Read Genesis 3.

What is the relationship of Adam and Eve at the beginning of this chapter (see 2:25)? What is Eve's role? What is Adam's role?

What kind of question does the serpent bring? Who is it against? To whom does he address it?

Why does Eve take the fruit? Is she after something bad? What is the decision she makes?

Where is Adam during this exchange? What does he do about it? What is the decision he makes?

With what relational patterns do they start? What relational patterns do they develop? What relational patterns do they have after? Why? List any verses where you find a communication pattern and what it is.

Who is held responsible? Is it a good thing or a bad thing?

Fun Discussion: Ceremony & Vows



## Commitment Testing – Week 3 – The Couple's Crash

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*Group discussion - Genesis 3.*

What is the relationship of Adam and Eve at the beginning of this chapter (see 2:25)? What is Eve's role? What is Adam's role?

What kind of question does the serpent bring? Who is it against? To whom does he address it?

Why does Eve take the fruit? Is she after something bad? What is the decision she makes?

Where is Adam during this exchange? What does he do about it? What is the decision he makes?

With what relational patterns do they start? What relational patterns do they develop? What relational patterns do they have after? Why? What emotions are shown in their responses? Show any verses where you find a communication pattern and what it is.

Placater

Blamer

Distracter

Withdrawer

Who is held responsible? Is it a good thing or a bad thing?

How does this apply today to you and to your marriage? How do you avoid these patterns?

Healthy Communication Patterns:

Weather Reports (Glad, sad, hurt, want)

Listening with sympathy and compassion

Loving Input (Truth causes growth)

Encouragement

Trust! (No threats and no D-word)

### **Preparation for Next Week:**

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*Questions to be answered individually and discussed together*

Read Galatians 2:11-21

What issue does Paul have with Peter (Cephas)? Was Peter hurting anyone?

How and where does Paul confront Peter? Why does he choose this method and place?

Read Matthew 18:15-20

What are the steps to reconciling conflict with others? What is the motivation?

How do you treat someone who refuses to listen? What does that mean?

What does verse 18 mean in this context? What does verse 19 mean in this context? And verse 20 (often used out of context)?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

What insight does this give you about the requirement of “three witnesses”?

Read John 13:37-14:15

Where is the conflict in this passage? (13:38)

How does Jesus respond? (14:1)

What does Jesus offer (especially in light of 13:38)? (14:1-14)

What did he ask the disciples to give in order to receive this?

Does Peter “deserve” this treatment knowing what’s coming?



## **Commitment Testing – Week 4 – The Couple's Conflict**

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*Group discussion.*

Read Galatians 2:11-21

What issue does Paul have with Peter (Cephas)? Was Peter hurting anyone?

How and where does Paul confront Peter? Why does he choose this method and place?

Read Matthew 18:15-20

What are the steps to reconciling conflict with others? What is the motivation?

How do you treat someone who refuses to listen? What does that mean?

What does verse 18 mean in this context? What does verse 19 mean in this context? And verse 20 (often used out of context)?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

What insight does this give you about the requirement of “three witnesses”?

Read John 13:37-14:15

Where is the conflict in this passage? (13:38)

How does Jesus respond? (14:1)

What does Jesus offer (especially in light of 13:38)? (14:1-14)

What did he ask the disciples to give in order to receive this?

Does Peter “deserve” this treatment knowing what’s coming?

What does this all mean for you?

Fun Discussion: Ceremony & Vows

## Preparation for Next Week:

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*Questions to be answered individually and discussed together*

### Review

What is the relation to all others and each other when marriage starts in Genesis 2:24?

What is the effect on the marriage relationship of the curse in Genesis 3:16?

### Read Ephesians 5:18-21

English refresher: “Be filled” is the last verb in verses 18-21, the rest are participles (-ing words). Why is that significant? From where does that mean “speaking, singing, making music, giving thanks, and submitting” come?

Define submit using a dictionary. You may want to use the internet to “define submit in greek”.

### Read Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians 5:22-6:9 is a digression by Paul of Ephesians 5:21, which is a participial phrase of 5:18. Why do you think Paul moves from being filled by the Holy Spirit to a discourse on marriage?

What are wives told to do and why? (5:22-24)

What are husbands told to do and why? (5:25-28)

How are men to treat their wives? (5:26-28)

Who are we supposed to compare ourselves to for both husbands and wives?

What is the picture you are painting together with your marriage? (5:29-32)

What is the final balance between husbands and wives given in 5:33? Why do you think this is so? Define “respect”.



## **Commitment Testing – Week 5 – The Couple's Balance**

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*Group discussion.*

### **Review**

What is the relation to all others and each other when marriage starts in Genesis 2:24?

What is the effect of the curse in Genesis 3:16?

### **Read Ephesians 5:18-21**

English refresher: “Be filled” is the last verb in verses 18-21, the rest are participles (-ing words). Why is that significant? Where does that mean “speaking, singing, making music, giving thanks, and submitting” come from?

Define submit using a dictionary. You may want to use the internet to “define submit in Greek”.

### **Read Ephesians 5:22-33**

Ephesians 5:22-6:9 is a digression by Paul of Ephesians 5:21, which is a participial phrase of 5:18. Why do you think Paul moves from being filled by the Holy Spirit to a discourse on marriage?

What are wives told to do and why? (5:22-24)

What are husbands told to do and why? (5:25-28)

How are men to treat their wives? (5:26-28)

Who are we supposed to compare ourselves to for both husbands and wives?

What is the picture you are painting together with your marriage? (5:29-32)

What is the final balance between husbands and wives given in 5:33? Why do you think this is so? Respect can be defined as “I like the work you do and I appreciate it.”

Does this sound like it will work?

Two questions to answer before getting married.

Are you a Christian?

Are you going to lead? ...to follow?

## **Preparation for Next Week: Finances**

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*Questions to be answered individually and discussed together*

### **Review**

In light of Genesis 2:24 and Galatians 5:24-26, can there be a division in your finances according to God? Who is responsible?

Tithing/Giving: Read Malachi 3:8-12

How do people rob God?

What are the consequences?

What is the remedy and challenge God gives?

How much do you give?

Taxes: Read Luke 20:22-25

Are we supposed to pay taxes? What if we object to how the government spends tax money?

Debt: Read Deuteronomy 24:6, Proverbs 17:18, Proverbs 22:7 and Romans 13:8

What general principles can you learn about debt?

### **Budgeting Activity:**

Do you use a budget? Do you want to?

Do you use credit cards?

List your income

List your bills

List your debts

Are there any surprises for your betrothed?



## Commitment Testing – Week 6 – The Couple's Cash

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*Group discussion.*

### Review

In light of Genesis 2:24 and Galatians 5:24-26, can there be a division in your finances according to God? Who is responsible?

Tithing/Giving: Read Malachi 3:8-12

How do people rob God?

What are the consequences?

What is the remedy and challenge God gives?

How much do you give?

Taxes: Read Luke 20:22-25

Are we supposed to pay taxes? What if we object to how the government spends tax money?

Debt: Read Deuteronomy 24:6, Proverbs 17:18, Proverbs 22:7 and Romans 13:8

What general principles can you learn about debt?

### Budgeting Activity:

Do you use a budget? Do you want to?

Do you use credit cards?

List your income

List your bills

List your debts

Are there any surprises for your betrothed?

Are there any resources you would like for your finances?

## **Preparation for Next Week: Covenants**

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*Questions to be answered individually and discussed together*

How committed are you to your marriage?

What are you willing to give up to keep it strong?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

What does this teach? Is it right?

Why 3 strands in the last verse?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

What is the promise to which these verses are referring?

What is the seal and deposit of what God has promised us in Jesus?

What does this mean would happen if God reneged on his promise?

Do you think that He would be willing to let that happen?

Read Genesis 15:7-21

We will discuss what is happening together to make sure you get the full imagery. Think about: What is happening here? Why do you think Abraham lays out the animals the way he does? Who moves between them?



## **Commitment Testing – Week 7 – The Couple's Covenant**

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*Group discussion.*

How committed are you to your marriage?

What are you willing to give up to keep it strong?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

What does this teach? Is it right?

Why 3 strands in the last verse?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

What is the promise to which these verses are referring?

What is the seal and deposit of what God has promised us in Jesus?

What does this mean would happen if God reneged on his promise?

Do you think that He would be willing to let that happen?

Read Genesis 15:7-21

What is God's promise to Abraham?

What is Abraham's question?

How does God prove his promise? Why?

What is happening here? Why do you think Abraham lays out the animals the way he does? Who moves between them?

Why does only one of them move between the animals?

Are you that committed to your covenant of marriage?

## **Preparation for Next Week: Ceremony**

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*Questions to be answered individually and discussed together*

Where do we go from here?

Ceremony

Resources

Other Questions....