

# Home Group Questions

the week of 3/4/2012

Various Scriptures

## AWESOME HOME MAKEOVER

### GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series, which focuses on marriage and the home. This week our study focused on the importance of handling conflict in a godly way and developing key communication and lifestyle components to successfully navigate through your disagreements.

### LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. **Read James 4:1-3.** What are the reasons for conflict as highlighted in this passage? What are some steps we can take to decrease the number of conflicts we have in our marriage?

2. The first component Pastor Mel highlighted was for the believer to have a heart of forgiveness.

- **Read Ephesians 4:29-32.** How do these verses tie together in putting together a lifestyle of forgiveness and handling conflict well?

- What is the toughest thing for you to do when it comes to obeying these verses in the midst of dealing with a conflict?

- On a scale from 1 – 10 with 10 being excellent, how good are you in obeying the command to “let no corrupting talk come out of your mouth”? What are some ways you can improve specifically to become obedient to this passage?

Talk about the role of the confronter and confrontee in conflict and some attitudes or ways of thinking that might derail you from responding according to what is described below:

*Confronter:* Pray that God would give you a heart like His, a heart that is quick to forgive, even if your spouse hasn't said the words “I'm sorry.”

*Confrontee:* Be sensitive to tensions in your relationship, willing to resolve issues in your marriage with a teachable, Christ-connected heart.

3. The second component is to have a spirit of self-control.

- **Read James 1:19-21.** Talk about anger and ways in which you seek to control it, especially when dealing with a disagreement in your marriage. Talk about the roles of the confronter/confrontee below and how to live by these principles:

*Confronter:* Pray before you confront; that you would honor the Lord & remain under control with no outbursts of anger or wrath directed at your spouse.

*Confrontee:* Be intentional about identifying the core issue by being quick to hear and slow to speak (avoiding a defensive, quarrelsome spirit).

4. The next two components are an attitude of humility, and then speaking the truth in love. Read the confronter/confrontee roles below. Talk about these roles and any potential difficulties:

*(humility)*

*Confronter:* Have a humble spirit about your own failures/sins, which fosters more understanding of the failures/sins of your spouse. Be receptive to the response of your spouse.

*Confrontee:* Be constantly aware of your need to grow and your willingness to learn from the hurts of your spouse.

*(truth in love)*

*Confronter:* Use words that focus on addressing the issue, not attacking the person. Avoid exaggerations like “always” or “never.” Accurately portray what happened.

*Confrontee:* Use words that help to clarify what the issue is. Avoid discounting the hurt of your spouse or retaliating by bringing up the past faults of your spouse.

Encourage your group to do these take-Home Builders:

\_\_\_Ask your spouse which of these components needs to increase in your life so that you can be more effective in resolving conflict.

\_\_\_Identify those areas that you know cause tension in your marriage and take the steps you need to take to remove that as a source of conflict