

a new way to **LIVE**

MARRIAGE–PART 1, Ephesians 5:21–33 April 28, 2019

CONNECT

1. Whose marriage do you most admire? What specifically did the couple do that amazed to you?
2. When you think about listening to a message on marriage, what emotions does it trigger? What concerns immediately pop into your mind?

CELEBRATE

3. Why does the Apostle Paul wait to talk about marriage until after he's emphasized the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. What does it mean to submit to each other out of reverence for Christ? Why do we need reverence for Christ in order to be able to submit to each other?
5. How does marriage between a man and a woman reflect Christ and the Church? Why do you think the Bible picks marriage as a metaphor to reflect our relationship with Christ?
6. Two primary characteristics of marriage are:
 - a. Two whole people becoming one.
 - b. Pointing to Christ's relationship with the Church.How can understanding these two concepts help us build better marriages?
7. Think back to the Connect question about the marriage you most admire. In what ways did that marriage point you to the relationship of Christ and the Church?
8. Read Song of Solomon 2:15. What are the "little foxes" that threaten your marriage? Since marriage points to Christ, what are the "little foxes" that threaten your relationship to Christ? How are you working to catch these foxes before they cause damage?

CONTRIBUTE

9. Consider the single people in your life. How do you interact with and pray for them? Do you affirm their wholeness, giftedness and unique opportunities? Do you view them as "not yet married" or as whole people already?
10. As a community of both singles and married people, how do we encourage each other toward devotion to Christ? How can we use our unique life situations to serve and support each other?