

Week 3

The Facilitator Guide will help you lead the conversation. [Brackets] indicate simple cues for you, as the facilitator, not intended to be read aloud.

Conversation Starter:

What was something you just had to have this past Christmas that has already lost its luster?

[Play the Recap Video, then move on to the Discussion Questions]

Discussion Questions:

Question 1: We all face difficult circumstances in our lives. Describe one situation in your life that you had to endure even though you wanted to quit. (*Hint: think loss of a job, sickness, family situation, etc.*)

Question 2: We often talk about falling in love as though it is out of our control. In his message, Jason shared, “*you don’t fall in love, you commit to it.*” Do you agree or disagree and why?

- **Read I Corinthians 13:4-7**

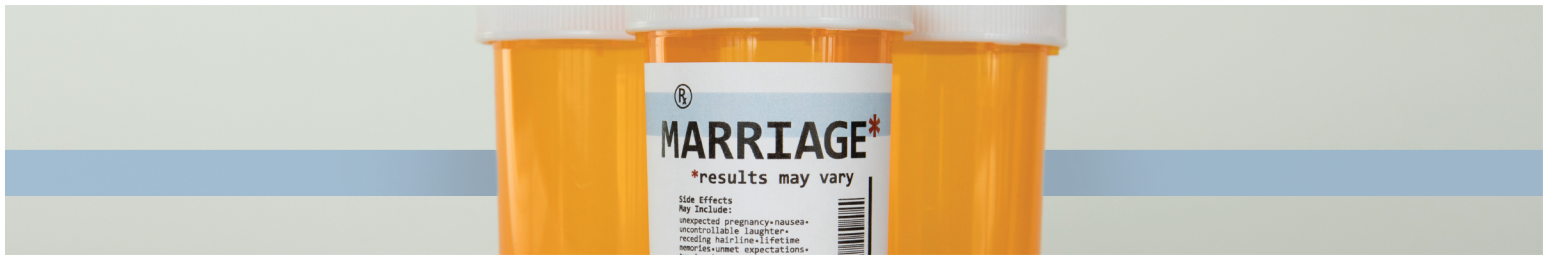
Question 3: We often read this “perfect love” passage without considering how difficult it is to apply. As you examine the relationships in your life, which of these descriptions of love seem to cause the most friction?

Question 4: Let’s take a few minutes to perform a relationship audit. This week we learned about three happiness homewreckers: self-pity, blame, resentment. Which of these postures do you need to work on in your marriage or other relationships this week?

Pray:

- **Read Romans 12:2**

The Apostle Paul encourages us not to copy the behaviors of this world but to let God change the way we think. Happy relationships don’t just happen they are the result of our habits. This week pray that each of us would not look to change our circumstances but rather that we would let God change our thinking.



Bonus:

With God's help. You and your spouse can build a love that endures through every circumstance even when the emotions have waned. Love is a choice. Passion and romance will come and go. Even though feelings fade, faithfulness can hold marriages together.

To help you in your relationship audit check out some tips to help you work through whichever happiness homewreckers you identified in your life.

Self-Pity: Love does not demand its own way.

- Remember, no person can make you whole.
- Don't look for your worth in a person. Let God's love become your identity and security.
- Follow Jesus example of service. Look for opportunities to give instead of take.

Decide: I will choose not to place my well-being solely in your hands.

Blame: Love is not easily offended.

- Remember, how you respond is your responsibility.
- Take ownership of the role you play.
- Talk about the root issue, don't attack the person.
- Tackle problems as a team.

Decide: I will choose to focus on what is wrong, more than who is wrong.

Resentment: Love keeps no record of being wronged.

- Remember, God's mercies are new every day! Choose forgiveness.
- Deal with your past hurts, so you don't project them on current or future relationships.
- Don't go to bed angry. Work it out even if it means sacrificing a little sleep.

Decide: I will choose to believe the best possible story about you.