

Week 4

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:

Share an interest or hobby that others are enjoy that you just don't understand. (*Hint: a TV show, scrapbooking, etc.*)

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

Discussion Questions:

Question 1: Think about a time when you felt valued and appreciated. What helped you feel that way? (Hint: It could have been a compliment you received from a spouse or friend, a project that went well at work, etc.)

Question 2: In their book, *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*, authors Les and Leslie Parrott say “*Making marriage work does not depend solely on our recognizing our differences – it’s a matter of appreciating those differences too.*” It’s easy to get along with those who share many commonalities. Why do you think it can be difficult to appreciate others who are different?

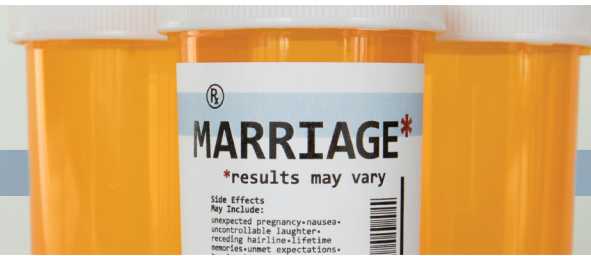
Question 3: In his message David said, “*we can stubbornly keep doing for our spouse what we wish they would do for us – or – we can acknowledge we are different and begin to meet each other’s needs in ways that will be helpful and productive.*” How can focusing on the needs of those we love help us be productive in our relationships?

- **Read Ephesians 4:29**

Question 4: Often our mouths works faster than our brain. The Apostle Paul encourages us to use our words to build others up rather than tearing them down. How can you use your words to bring life to your spouse this week? If you’re single, how can you call out the qualities of someone who is different than you?

Pray:

As we wrap up our time this week, let’s take some time pray in two separate groups: men’s and women’s. Spend some time thanking God for the unique ways he has wired the opposite sex. Ask Him to help us not only recognize but appreciate those differences!



Bonus: (For Married Couples)

Men and women are uniquely different- including you and your spouse. Spend some time this week and talk through your differences with your spouse. Be intentional with your time and put in the hard work. Your marriage is worth it! If it's helpful, follow the steps below.

1. Start with Prayer

- Go off and pray alone. Spend some time confessing to God those areas you have fallen short in your relationship with your spouse.
- Spend some time praying for your spouse. Ask God to help you enjoy the way your spouse's differences complement and challenge you.

2. Talk Together

- Spend some time in conversation together about the differences you have as a husband and wife. Fill in the blanks below with each other's names to help you remember the specific need you can help meet.

What _____ Should Know About His Wife.
(Husband's name)

- _____ needs to be cherished – _____ needs to know she is number one in your life.
- _____ needs to be known and understood.
- _____ wants her feelings validated and accepted – and this only comes by listening without offering quick solutions.
- _____ needs to be respected as you honor her needs, wishes, values, and rights.

What _____ Should Know About Her Husband.
(Wife's name)

- _____ needs to be admired - _____ relishes his wife's praise.
- _____ needs to have autonomy – when under pressure, he needs space.
- _____ needs shared activity – his emotional intimacy involves doing things together.