

## **SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

**Series Title:** Family Life?  
**Message Title:** "Dissatisfaction"  
**Speaker:** Pastor Kevin Myers  
**Date:** November 1, 2009

### **Icebreaker:**

Describe a time in which you felt dissatisfied with something in your life. What helped you to get out of that season?

### **Message Overview:**

*As we continue to draw insights from the Life of King David, we will look at the season when David was king over all of Israel, approximately between the ages of 37-70. In his early 40's, David was at the peak of his success, the peak of his career, the peak of his wealth, the peak of his power and he was **Dissatisfied**. During this time, David experienced his most famous failure; his fall into adultery with Bathsheba and the intentional murder of her husband Uriah (2 Sam. 11). As David chose to engage in an adulterous affair, he brought great regret into his life and calamity into his family for years, all the way to the end of his life. Because of David's repentance, he was forgiven (good news to all who have gone the path of an affair); but he did not escape the consequences (this should be viewed as a warning to those who may be considering the lure and lie of adultery). David chose to chase an affair and the consequences chased him the rest of his life.*

### **Let's Be Candid:**

- Every marriage knows seasons or cycles of **Dissatisfaction**
- Every marriage does not know 'how to' mature through **Dissatisfaction**

### **Let's Be Courageous:**

- Marriage maturity starts/sustains with "No Options"  
(Optional thinking leads to optional living.)
- You cannot have 20 years of maturity in a 5 year marriage,  
But you can have 5 years of maturity in 20 years of marriage
- If your dissatisfaction is not rooted, it will uproot your marriage (John 15:1-8)

### **Discussion:**

(Leaders: Do not try to cover every question provided in this study guide, but rather review the complete list, selecting a mix of questions that work best for your group, mixing scripture research/discussion as well as personal application of the teaching principles. Please also use the information in the appendix to supplement your teaching.)

### ***The Conclusion***

- Read 2 Samuel 11 aloud in group. David's mistake was that he gave himself options. In verse one of this passage David makes his first mistake, what was it? God set up a series of roadblocks to help stop David from sinning successfully; read through the rest of the chapter and name the road blocks. During certain seasons of your life, what road blocks has God put in front of you to prevent you from successfully sinning? What was your reaction to those road blocks?
- Read Genesis 3:16-19. Understand that the word "cursed" is reserved for the serpent and the ground, not Adam and Eve. Discuss the judgment that came to Eve and how this has affected women ever since. Discuss the judgment that came to Adam and what this means in our modern day times.
- Review the "What If's" that are at the root of marriage dissatisfaction (See Appendix) and choose some for your group to discuss. This can be done even if you have single and divorced people in your group. The issues go deep to the core of a person.
- Since the Fall, man has reneged on his role as servant leadership in the family and desires lordship in all he does. Women have had an urge for independence from their Creator and husband and a desire to dominate. Both men and women must deal with the urge to resist God's rule. In Ephesians 5:22-33, Paul outlines God's original role for men and women in marriage. Why is this passage so misunderstood and misused in our current times? What needs to happen in your own marriage so you are modeling this?

### ***The Caution***

- PK and Marcia shared the three 'No Options' that exist in their marriage: No divorce/quitting, No adultery, No emotional drifting. What sort of 'No Options' or boundaries do you have in your marriage? In your earlier/first marriage, what 'No Options' were violated by you or your spouse and how has this affected your current state of your marriage?
- In living out the Ephesians 5 model of a marriage; how can a man become centered on his work through his Creator and not ask his family to excuse his neglect of them due to his work? How can a woman become centered on her worth through her Creator and not ask her husband to fill an emotional bucket he cannot fill? How are you avoiding spouse bashing with your peers? How are you modeling an Ephesians 5 marriage to your children, neighbors or coworkers?

- The strength of a marriage is not merely in the number of years of marriage, but staying rooted and dependent on God, in bringing our holes in the bucket to him vs. dumping them on our spouse. David cut himself off from the vine and he ceased to bloom in God's blessing. When your needs/dissatisfaction are not being met in your marriage, what sort of safeguards do you have in place so you don't go outside your marriage to fulfill this (internet, television, shopping, food, personal body obsession, etc.)?
- Who was a role model for you in marriage? What did that couple do in crisis or hard times? How did they model a godly marriage or an Ephesians 5 marriage? What things did you learn from this couple that you have brought to your marriage? Would your children desire to have the kind of marriage you have? Why or why not?

### **Wrap-Up:**

*You and your spouse read over the "What If's" that are at the root of marriage dissatisfaction (in the Appendix) and commit to an ongoing discussion of these, adding your own "What If's".*

*If you had a couple model a good marriage for you and your spouse or if you had someone mentor you during your marriage and they are still living, will you commit to writing that couple or person a "Thank You" note this week and tell them how much God used them in your marriage?*

*If you have already engaged in the discipline of a personal quiet time will you commit to going deeper with your relationship with the Lord? If you have not started a personal quiet time, will you commit to beginning that process? You can ask your leaders for help, they are good resources.*

### **Throughout the Week: (Optional)**

(Leaders: Share these optional exercises for further study and growth with your group.)

#### **Memory verse:**

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5 NKJV*

#### **Recommended Reading:**

*Gary Thomas, Sacred Influence-How God Uses Wives to Shape the Souls of Their Husbands (for wives)  
Gary Thomas, Sacred Marriage-What If God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy? (For couples)*

**Appendix – Additional Information to Supplement Your Teaching:**

***“What If’s” at the root of marriage Dissatisfaction***

- 1. What if in the Fall, we brought something on ourselves that is not going to go away here on earth? What if we are paying for our sins and we are in denial of that? What if it is in fact: “Dissatisfaction”?*
- 2. What if we are asking our spouses to solve dissatisfaction that they cannot solve and that they are not the source?*
- 3. What if we are going to have to live with dissatisfaction as part of a Fallen human race? What if men and women each have unique dissatisfaction tied to this Fall? What if we keep trying to run away from our dissatisfaction, but it will not be ignored?*
- 4. What if in the Fall, women sought for an independence from their Creator, from their husband and from her role and instead of a deeper satisfaction they are living with a deeper dissatisfaction?*
- 5. What if in the Fall, men laid down their role of servant leadership under their Creator and to their family only to bring about a dissatisfaction in work and marriage that will never go away?*
- 6. What if it’s a degree of dissatisfaction that is like a hole in a bucket? You can keep pouring into the bucket, but it will never fill up? What if it is degree of dissatisfaction that marriage cannot solve or fill?*
- 7. What if it cannot be solved on earth but only salved as you remain in authentic, dependent relationship with God? What if we are chasing many things to solve the hole in the bucket, but it keeps leaking out, leaving us feeling empty?*
- 8. What if we are terribly dissatisfied in marriage because we expected marriage to solve the hole in our bucket? What if marriage was not meant to solve the dissatisfaction and in frustration we end up ruining our marriage so that it fails to provide the satisfaction, “the good” marriage is created to serve?*
- 9. What if we keep thinking that marriage is suppose to be an amusement park and we forget: at amusement parks, the rides are One minute and the lines are One hour? What if marriage has a lot of lines of waiting and maturing on the way to the thrill?*
- 10. What if “after the thrill is gone”, marriage is about a deeper love that grows out of bringing your dissatisfaction to God vs. dumping your dissatisfaction on your spouse?*
- 11. What if you can’t psychologically counsel your way out of Dissatisfaction, but only obey your way to marital maturity?*

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