SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: From This Day Forward
Message Title: Fair Fight
Speaker: Kevin Myers
Date: February 22, 2015

Icebreaker:
What does the word “love” mean to you? Based on your life experiences are they empty words? Meaningful words? Weighty words?

Message Overview:

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

“Love redefines how you fight.” – PK

In this sermon, PK suggests there are five practical fair fight lessons that you can start implementing in your everyday relationships or marriage. In fact, PK says, “How you love determines how you relate with others.” With that said, he uses five props to show each of us our own strengths and weaknesses in relationships.

1) “Love cares more for others than for self.” (Sponge)
   - Love absorbs annoyances.

2) “Love doesn’t fly off the handle.” – (Frying Pan)
   - Love lets things roll off your back.

3) “Love doesn’t keep score of wrongs.” (Wastebasket)
   - Love trashes the list not the person.

4) “Love isn’t always me first.” (Hammer & Nail)
   - Love hears before it’s heard.

5) “Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have.” (Measuring Cup)
   - Love is content (or discontent will undo you).
The goal of a relationship is to win together. “If you win and your spouse loses, the relationship loses.” - PK

**Discussion:**
(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week’s primary Message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased *biblical* awareness, as well as individual *self-*awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and…transformation!)

Read 1 Corinthians 13 out-loud together.

Not only does PK give us practical symbols to remember these lessons, but also he encourages and challenges us to ask these things of our spouse and ourselves.

What I ask myself:
- When it comes to personality- be yourself.
- When it comes to character- be like God. (Read Psalm 145:8)
- When it comes to maturity- be better.

  • Which one do you need to personally focus on the most? Maybe you need to grow more in becoming like God or grow in your level of maturity. Maybe you need to know more about yourself like PK had to explore his anger issues.

What I ask of my spouse:
- When it comes to personality- accept me.
- When it comes to character- encourage me.
- When it comes to maturity- strengthen me.

  • Which one do you need your spouse’s help with the most? Do you need to be encouraged more? Accepted more with patience and love?

Read James 1:19 together. “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry…”

  • Are you the type of person that is slow to speak? Quick to speak? Slow to become angry? Quick to become angry?
• Which prop was the most meaningful to you? Did you easily relate to the wastebasket, the sponge, etc.?
• What are some ways you can remember these lessons so that the next time you have a heated conflict, you’ll be ready?

Wrap-Up/Close:
Relationships will always have conflict. Emotions will always exist. Words will always have the power to hurt. Based on the definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13, what does love mean for you today in your relationships? What do you need to do to make sure that your love stays content and focused on God? May your story be similar to the Hallmark Commercial couple that said, “I can tell he loves me in the way we talk to each other and the way we relate to each other.” Love will always determine how you relate, and people will know Christ by our love. John says, “By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13: 35).

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

After small group, set aside time with your significant other to discuss:
- What fair fight lesson is a strength in your relationship?
- What fair fight lesson is a weakness in your relationship?
- What does your significant other need from you in order to help win the relationship?

Read PK/Marcia’s Fair Fight Rules: 12Stone.com/FairFight

Each relationship is different, so go ahead and create your own Fair Fight rules for your relationship this week. Then, bring one rule back you’d like to share for the next week so that everybody can learn new ideas.