

01/07/18 | Improving Ours: Marriage, Week 1



"If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised..."—1 Peter 4:11a | NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever been upset with another person longer than a day? How did you two reconcile? What were the first moves you both made to forgive and come back together?
2. Consider this quote. Does this advice apply to all relationships? Why or why not? Would you add anything to this list?

"To make a marriage work, the big three are: Change. Forgiveness. Surrendering to God and being filled with the Holy Spirit."
—Richard Massafra

Samson and the Timnite Woman

3. Read Judges 14 for an example of an unhealthy marriage. How did Samson and his wife meet? What started the trouble between them? What did talking accomplish? How did they refuse to accept blame? What action did they decide upon?
4. How did Samson make his wife feel unloved? How did his wife make Samson feel disrespected?
5. How did the side characters (parents and friends) aggravate the marriage? What can you learn from their mistakes?
6. Pick a point in the story and imagine you are Samson, or his wife. What is a different course of actions you could have taken in their situation? How might this have changed the outcome?

(If you want to hear the end of the story with Samson and the Timnite woman, also read Judges 15.)

Ruth and Boaz

7. Read Ruth 2 for an example of a healthy relationship. How did Ruth and Boaz meet? Where did Ruth come from, her past and nationality? What could have started trouble between Ruth and Boaz? How did they speak to each other? What actions did they take?
8. How did Boaz make Ruth feel loved? How did Ruth make Boaz feel respected?
9. How did the side characters (foreman and Naomi) support the relationship? What can you learn from the story about encouraging other couples?
10. If you put yourself into Ruth and Boaz's story, which character do you identify with the most? What can you use from that character's actions in your life this week?

(If you want to hear the end of the story with Ruth and Boaz (and how they got married!), also read Ruth 3 and 4.)

11. Is it hardship or people's reactions that determine how well they get along? How can these two Bible stories support your answer? What's your first reaction to trouble with a family member: pointing fingers, complaining, talking, distance, action, or other? What might be a better way to react?

TAKEAWAY:

- Men, do three things this week to help your wife feel loved by you.
- Women, do three things this week to show respect for your husband.