

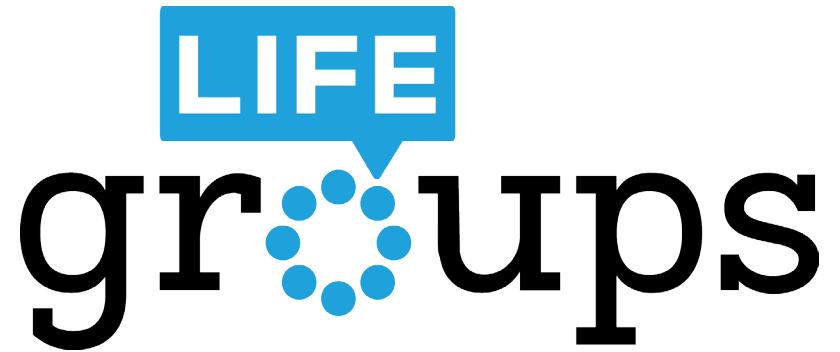
SUNDAY'S MAIN POINT

Marriage is a submission competition
– a race to the back of the line.

Suggested Bible reading for this week:

PSALM 46 :: As Paul and Sharyn read during the main teaching, this is a terrific reminder that, in the good times and especially the bad, we have a God in whom we can rest. If you find yourself in a time of struggle in your marriage, take time every day this week to read these words and allow the peace of God to be a reality in your life.

NOTES + PRAYER REQUESTS:



Begin by watching the "Info for the Group" portion of the DVD and then here are a few questions to get you going:

- ___ What was your high and low from the past week?

- ___ To get your conversation started this week, share with the group something that you are looking forward to this week.

PLEASE WATCH THE DVD'S "MAIN SESSION"

INTRODUCTION

Does it ever seem like every couple around you has it all together, while you can't even agree on what's for dinner? What's their secret? Whether you are in a relationship or you would like to be in a relationship, this series will attempt to uncover *What Happy Couples Know*. For this week's teaching, we hear an interview between Dustin and his parents, Paul and Sharyn Funk on what to do with "that thing" in our relationships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group one major life event that has helped shape your identity. How do you feel it has influenced how you see yourself? How do you think it shaped how others see you?

Author Donald Miller wrote, "When we begin to see our own issues and define them, that is half the battle. When we do this, a lot of these things begin to go away on their own. Often times, our biggest struggle in dealing with our baggage is to simply understand we are carrying it."

2. Sometimes we neglect to discuss our past or current issues with others. What are some of the reasons you are generally unwilling to share your struggles with other people?
3. Read **James 1:2-4**. What are the benefits of pushing past those obstacles so that we see acknowledge our own hurts, issues or baggage that is present in our relationships?
4. Even if you are not in a relationship, it's important to understand that we all have struggles that impact relationships – for Paul and Sharyn, it stemmed from family dynamics – are you aware of yours? If you are comfortable, share with the group what causes strain in your relationship or marriage.

5. In the teaching, Paul and Sharyn said, "We couldn't believe that God gave us one child, but not given us the other." Meaning, they believed both Dustin and Shanda were a part of God's plan for their lives. As you consider the baggage you bring to your relationship (or would bring to a relationship), how do these words influence your perspective?
6. Read **Psalm 46:1-3**. According to these verses, where should we rest in times of difficulty? What does it mean for you to do this practically?
7. Read **Psalm 62:8**. How has the baggage in your life, and your relationship, impacted your relationship with God? What has it taught you about God?
8. Paul and Sharyn shared the story of showing up on a friend's door step in the middle of the night. We all need people who we can lean on for support in marriage. Who do you lean on for wisdom, support and direction in your relationship? What area of your relationship do you think you need support?
9. We all need people in our lives who support us no matter what we are going through. Whether in a marriage relationship or not, we shouldn't have to struggle privately. Life Group is a safe place to share these concerns. As prayer time begins, how can the group support you? How can the group pray for you or your marriage?

MOVING FORWARD

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge." (**Proverbs 46:1-3**)

BE SURE TO PRAY TOGETHER AS A GROUP...

— What are some things going on in your life that need prayer?