

Independent-Interdependent

Week 4

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

God set oneness as the goal in marriage, but it can only be achieved through a loving interdependence that permits individuality to flourish.

MAIN POINTS

1. God's plan for marriage is a oneness/ interdependent relationship between husband and wife.
2. Neither spouse loses individuality in the development of oneness.
3. Every couple has the potential for these areas to get out of balance, causing one or both to feel controlled or abandoned.

KICKOFF

6:05 (15 minutes)

A. Opening Prayer:

Who has discovered that his marriage is out of balance in the individual/interdependent area, and would like the group to pray for him and his wife? If that is not an issue, ask if anyone has had a blowup at home the past week that is still bothering him and is willing to ask for prayer support.

B. Prayer Partners:

Check with each other on one or more of these areas:

1. Progress in Scripture Memory.
2. Quiet Time.
3. Was the Home Study done?
4. Level of interaction with his wife.
5. Amount of time in genuine conversation with his children.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6:20 (40-45 minutes)

MY GAME PLAN:

The three main truths I want to lead the men in this week are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

1. What do you appreciate and value about the oneness you are experiencing in your marriage?

2. Take five minutes to write what you have mentioned so you can share it with your wife tonight.
3. Men seek out their independence (individuality) in three major ways: sports and hobbies, business, and buying. How do you express your independence?
4. What is your wife saying about how you express your independence? How do you interpret what she is saying? From Day 1 talk about the balance between independence and dependence.
5. Someone has said that men tend to seek out their independence more than women. Is that true today? Why or why not?
6. Wives also have a need to express their individual uniqueness. What are some areas in which you see your wives expressing their individuality? See Day 4.
7. How can we help them develop the individual gifts and talents God has given them?
8. From Day 2, discuss oneness in marriage. Be sure to look at some of the verses.
9. Get the men to answer Question 3.

REVIEW THE READING

7:05 (30 minutes)

MY GAME PLAN:

The three main truths I want to lead the men in this week are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Read chapters 7 and 8 of *Love Life for Every Married Couple*.

1. What is the greatest barrier to romantic love in your relationship with your wife?

2. What does your wife consider romantic actions?

3. What do you and your wife do together that either has a romantic environment or arouses romantic feelings?

4. What is your wife's favorite entertainment (concert, play, movie, ball game, etc.) when you go out for an evening?

5. How would you describe *storge* love?

6. What makes *storge* love such a powerful glue in a marriage relationship?

7. Why is a sense of belonging so important to our wives?

8. What can we as men do to give the gift of belonging to our wives?

9. Words can destroy a marriage. Work through the verses and truths from Day 3.

EMPOWERING PRAYER

7:35 (25 minutes)

A. **Rubber Meets the Road:** It's tough being honest about our relationships with our wives. For some men it is tough asserting their individuality in the presence of a strong, gifted wife. For other men it is hard to let go enough control to let their wives develop their individuality. Where are you?

B. Prayer:

Take some time in prayer with the person to your right, focusing on oneness and individuality. Do not, however, overlook a special need that this person has today and for which he needs prayer support.

If there is time, ask for prayer needs that the whole group can pray for.

DEBRIEFING WITH THE CO-FACILITATORS

It is vital that the men keep up their Quiet Time, for Satan's goal is to destroy the marriages of men truly committed to Christ. They also need the therapy of Scripture memory to keep refocusing on Christ and what He expects of us.

HELPFUL HINTS

Don't let the men get away with generalities. They will be helped only if they become genuinely honest and transparent. So keep at them with questions such as, "Why?" and "How does that work?" and "What about...?"