

# Water of Life Community Church

## MARRIAGE

### WHY COMMITMENT WORKS

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5; MATTHEW 16:25

WEEK 5

#### PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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## ICE BREAKER

## PRAYER

## WORSHIP

## INTRODUCTION

In Philippians 2, Paul reminds us of the heart of Jesus' words in Matthew 16:25. The people who have the best lives aren't the ones demanding they get their way. The name of Jesus is powerful because He put Himself last. That's what commitment in marriage and relationships "for both parties" requires.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5.

- a. What circumstances in relationships tempt you to ignore the instructions in these verses? Why?
- b. When have you benefitted from someone who looked out for your interests?
- c. In your own words, what does it mean to "consider others as more important than yourselves" (v. 3) without total disregard for your own needs?
- d. How do we balance our responsibility to ourselves and to others?
- e. How have you seen relationships strengthened through acts of humility?
- f. How did Jesus' submission even to the point of death demonstrate His strength?

### 2. READ MATTHEW 16:25.

- a. What is the cost of following Jesus?
- b. What do you make of Jesus' statement in verse 25? How do the values of Jesus' kingdom thwart our expectations?

c. How are we to relate this to our earthly relationships? If you are married, how are we to relate this particularly to marriage? Does this mean you stay no matter what? What, then, does it mean?

d. What is the reward of following Jesus in total commitment?

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## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Why must an undivided focus on God be a priority in marriage? What are the dangers facing our marriages when we fail to put God first?
  - How “divided” is your devotion to the Lord in your current season of life? What are the main things that are distracting you? What is one step you can take to minimize distraction this week?
  - What are some specific ways our group can encourage and help each other keep God and His gospel at the center of our lives and our marriages?
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## GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

### REFLECT

- When you think about your past relationships, have you treated them more like a contract or a covenant?

### RESPOND

- Commit to finding practical ways you can be flexible this week in your relationships.

*Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting “eDevotional” to 67076; or go to [wolgroups.com](http://wolgroups.com) and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week’s theme.*

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## MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 2:3, Contemporary Standard Version (CSV)

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.*

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## NOTES