

Discussion Guide

September 21, 2025

A Walk In The Park: Week 3

Pastor Daniel & Jackie Groves with Pastors Adam & Ashlee Mesa

Main Idea

Healthy relationships don't just happen by accident. It takes work and perseverance based on a biblical model of Love.

Anchor Passage

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV)

1. Marriages focused on unity (oneness) always outpace marriages focused on being right.

Marriage often magnifies impatience because it exposes our baggage and unmet expectations. When we focus on winning arguments or proving we're right, it creates division. But marriages that pursue unity — listening first, staying patient, and refusing to keep score — always move forward faster and healthier. As James 1:19–20 reminds us, being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger leads to righteousness and lasting oneness.

Read James 1:19-20

Discussion: When was the last time you had to choose between being 'right' and staying united with your spouse (or someone close to you)? How did your choice affect the relationship, and what could you do differently next time to prioritize unity?

2. Our past, our wounds, and our expectations make patience and forgiveness hard.

Marriage doesn't erase our baggage — it amplifies it. Past wounds, unmet expectations, fear, and insecurity often surface in close relationships, making patience and forgiveness difficult. As Romans 7 reminds us, even when we want to do what's right, we often struggle to follow through — which is why grace and understanding are essential in marriage.

Read Romans 7:18-19

Discussion: What past hurt or unmet expectation tends to surface in your closest relationships, and how can you invite God's grace to help you respond with patience and forgiveness instead of frustration?

3. Love requires intentionality, honesty, and perseverance. It is a daily choice to build, not a one-time vow.

Healthy marriages aren't accidental — they're built through intentional, honest, and persevering love. Choosing each day to speak truth with grace, make small acts of love, and stay committed even when it's hard creates lasting strength and intimacy.

Discussion: What is one small, intentional choice you can make this week to show love with honesty and perseverance in your marriage or closest relationship?

Healthy marriages don't happen by accident. They happen when you choose to lean into the process.

SUMMARY

Marriage thrives when couples pursue unity over being right, confront their past baggage with grace, and choose love daily. Patience, forgiveness, honesty, and perseverance are not one-time decisions but ongoing choices that build trust and intimacy. Healthy marriages don't happen by accident — they are formed through intentional steps that honor God and strengthen oneness.

CALL TO ACTION

Choose Unity Over Winning. This week, pause before reacting in conflict. Ask, "Am I trying to be right, or am I fighting for oneness?" and choose the response that builds unity.

Face Your Baggage With Grace. Identify one past wound or unmet expectation that keeps surfacing, and pray specifically for God's help to respond with patience and forgiveness.

Make a Daily Love Choice. Commit to one small, intentional act of love each day — a kind word, a note, or a moment of honest conversation — to strengthen your relationship.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Most Unique

Description:

This icebreaker works the same way as Two Truths and a Lie, but it takes less time and can be used to get a meeting started. Go around the room, and ask each participant to share something about themselves that they believe makes them different from everyone else in the room. You can provide an example to help get everyone started, such as “I have 9 siblings” or “I have never left my home state.”

Connection to the message:

This activity encourages openness and celebrates individuality among the group.