

Re-Engage

Life Group Leaders Guide

Objective

This guide contains the information and questions you will need to lead a life group study during our current sermon series. Our aim is to spark Spirit-led, Bible-centered conversations that anyone can participate in regardless of how biblically literate they may or may not be. **The win** that we want you to experience is when your group members **connect** more closely with each other and with God so that they are encouraged to move forward in living out their faith.

Directions

The *Purpose* and *Move* sections are for the leader to read to the group to provide clarity. **Do not feel pressured to cover all the questions.** Decide which ones may work best for your group. You will see brief notes interspersed between groups of questions to help give the group context for their answers. The *Notes and Commentary* section (when included) is optional reading for the leader to get background information and better understanding of the passages before leading the discussion.

Series Overview

If you're married, would you rate your marriage as a 2 or a 10? Maybe even a 0? You are not alone. Whether your marriage needs to be reignited or resurrected, chances are that your marriage needs you to re-engage. Re-engage is a four-week series designed for couples who want a closer walk with their spouse – and with God. For singles, it will help prepare you for possible marriage in the future and also help you strengthen other important relationships.

Re-Engage Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic
1	2/9	Give Up
2	2/16	Give In
3	2/23	Give Grace
4	3/1	Group Socials

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

Give Up

The Big Idea

Entrust your marriage to God's will.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: What is something you believed to be true when you were younger that you later came to realize was false?

Move #1: Since the sermon series and life groups are covering similar topics, it might be a good idea (both for content and time) to begin the discussion with some unpacking questions from this Sunday's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend on how we need to Give In to God's purposes for our marriages and relationships?
2. Is there anything from the message this weekend that you want to apply?

Move 2: Let's take some time now to dig a little deeper into the text from this week's sermon.

Read Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV)

5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

3. What do people tend to think of when they hear the word *meek*?

Note: Some have defined "meek" as strength under control, or a gentle strength. In relation to God, it is a disposition of accepting God's will as good and surrendering to it, rather than arguing and resisting it.

4. How can we apply an accurate understanding of meekness to our marriages and other relationships?
5. How do we often confuse our own will for our marriage with God's will?
6. How can a hunger and thirst for God's righteous will lead to a healthier marriage or relationship?
7. God fills us in a way that our spouse or another person simply can't. How does knowing that contribute to more contentment in our marriage?

Move #3: "Meekness" can take many forms in marriage. Let's look at a text in Proverbs to see the importance of showing gentleness even when we are angry.

Read Proverbs 15:1-4 (NIV)

- 1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- 2 The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.
- 3 The eyes of the Lord are everywhere,
keeping watch on the wicked and the good.
- 4 The soothing tongue is a tree of life,
but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

8. What do these proverbs have in common with Jesus' statements in the previous passage we studied?
9. Share a time when you or your spouse defused a tense situation or conflict with a gentle answer.
10. In your marriage, do you tend to respond gently or harshly when your spouse (or someone else) disappoints you? How is that working for you? What steps could you take to respond more gently?
11. Verse 3 assures us that God sees and knows the struggles and challenges we face and is keeping watch over us. How can you draw strength from him to love your spouse even when it's hard?

Next Steps:

1. Take time this week to memorize Proverbs 15:4. Then as you interact with your spouse or people around you, run to Jesus and ask him to help you live it out.
2. Sign up for the Re-Engage Class. It's a limited-time class designed to really help you take your marriage, no matter how good or strained it may be, to the next level. Get the info and register at pointchurch.com/reengage.

Prayer: End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. Take requests, but be sure to pray also about what you've discussed today.

Notes and Commentary

The following are pieces of commentary, facts, and links based on the passages of this study in order. Use them to help supplement your group time or for your personal preparation.

On Matthew 5

Blessed are the meek ... (5:5). The domineering, the aggressive, the harsh, and the tyrannical are often those who attempt to dominate the earth and establish their own little kingdoms. But Jesus says that it is the "gentle" who will inherit the earth, harking back to the psalmist who encourages those who have been treated harshly by evildoers (Ps. 37:9, 11). This shifts the focus from individual personal qualities ("poor in spirit," "those who mourn") to interpersonal attributes ("the gentle"), to people who do not assert themselves over others in order to advance their own causes. This does not imply weakness, however, for this same term is applied to Jesus, who describes himself as "gentle and humble in heart" (11:29; cf. 21:5). Jesus was not afraid to confront the religious leaders when necessary or to rebuke his own disciples for self-centeredness. He will be strong

enough to face the most torturous death possible as he endured the cross. (Michael J. Wilkins, NIV Application Commentary: Matthew)

“Meek,” like “poor in spirit,” speaks not only of those who are in fact disadvantaged and powerless, but also of those whose attitude is not arrogant and oppressive. The term in itself may properly be understood of their relations with other people; they are those who do not throw their weight about. But “meek,” as well as “poor,” is used to translate *‘anāwīm* in the Psalms, where the emphasis is more on their relationship with God. It is the *‘anāwīm* who according to Ps 37:11 will inherit the earth (or “land”) when the “wicked” who have oppressed them have been cut off. They are further described in Ps 37:7–9 as “those who wait for the Lord” instead of fretting and scheming to right their own wrongs.

[I]n Matthew’s usage [“righteousness”] is overwhelmingly concerned with right conduct, with living the way God requires (see on 3:15), and in 5:20 [righteousness] will be used emphatically in this sense. 5:10 follows closely on this beatitude, and the “righteousness” which is there the cause of persecution can hardly be understood as divine action. It is thus better understood here not of those who wish to see God’s will prevail in the world in general or on their own behalf in particular, but of those who are eager themselves to live as God requires, those who can say, as Jesus himself is recorded as saying in John 4:34, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me.” The metaphor of hunger and thirst in this connection recalls 4:4, the idea of living not on physical food but on every word that comes from God. It is a matter of priorities. Such hunger and thirst will be fully satisfied.... (R.T. France, *New International Commentary on the New Testament: Matthew*)

Jesus’ disciples see firsthand the contrast between the self-righteousness of the religious leaders and God’s righteousness in Jesus’ life and ministry. As they continue to experience the transformation that accompanies life in the realm of the kingdom of heaven, their hunger and thirst for God’s righteousness remains real as they live in the already-not yet of the present age, experiencing a passionate concern for the right things in kingdom living. This passionate pursuit of righteousness flows from a transformed heart. Jesus’ disciples will be vessels of God’s righteousness as they strive for justice, as they exemplify a life of righteousness, and as they bring God’s gift of salvation to a world still held in the sway of the evil one (Eph. 2:1–10). (Wilkins)