

EQUIP

marriage

WHAT IS EQUIP?

The EQUIP ministry exists to educate, equip, and empower the men and women of Austin Ridge to fulfill our church's mission of Pursuing Jesus and Pursuing People. EQUIP is designed to help train everyone who attends Austin Ridge to live out God's design for life, relationships, work, and ministry. We will be offering live training events, small group curriculum, podcasts, and classes throughout the year. Topics will range from marriage & parenting, to apologetics & evangelism, to spiritual disciplines like prayer and studying your Bible.

This guide was created to walk you or your group through the material and teachings presented at the **Marriage EQUIP** event. In this guide, you will find links to the teachings and instructions as well as group discussion questions and practical next steps. It is our prayer that through this guide, you are encouraged as you walk alongside your spouse supported by a spiritual community in pursuit of Jesus and each other.

We are excited to see how God might use this equipping concept in us as followers of Christ, in our Life Groups, in our church, in our city, and around the world.

We thank you for your time and hope you find this to be helpful,

Austin Ridge Care Ministry & Life Groups Ministry

USING THIS GUIDE

Within this guide you will find links to videos, questions to guide your discussion time, and space to take notes as your group goes through its contents. Watch each video, then spend time answering the questions and engaging in the activities prompted in the videos.

Video 1: Introduction

Video 2: God's Design for Marriage

Respond: Couple/Group Discussion

Video 3: Marriage Myths – Part I

Marriage Myths – Part II

Respond: Couple/Group Discussion

Video 4: Beliefs and Behavior

Video 5: Q&A & Closing

All videos here:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/ridgeequip/videos>

EQUIP: MARRIAGE | God's Design For Marriage

Phillip Williams, Care Pastor

NOTES

DISCUSS WITH YOUR SPOUSE

1. What have you learned about your spouse that has surprised you? How long ago was it?

2. Read this statement and share your thoughts about it with your spouse:
“Whether we feel loved and respected today in marriage or exposed as an imperfect mate married to an imperfect person, both scenarios are opportunities to experience what God most wants for our lives. Both experiences can point us to our desperate need to live dependent on our first marriage to Jesus, the source of love and the one who restores relationships.”

SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Share one helpful takeaway from this session with the people in your group.

EQUIP: MARRIAGE | Marriage Myths

Michael Chiles, Care Pastor

NOTES

DISCUSS WITH YOUR SPOUSE

1. What are some myths about marriage that our culture promotes?
2. Do we see evidence of some of these myths in *our* marriage? If so, what are they?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Share one helpful takeaway from this session with the people in your group.

EQUIP: MARRIAGE | Beliefs and Behavior

Phillip Williams, Care Pastor

NOTES

APPENDIX 1: RESPONSES AFTER THE FALL

MAN AND WOMAN'S RESPONSE	GOD'S RESPONSE
Fear of punishment	Invited them to confess
Expect death/annihilation	Promised life will come from their relationship
Shame-motivated isolation/self-protection	Promised a redeemer will come from their relationship
Shame-motivated blame to skirt responsibility	Expect the fall to bring tension to their relationship with each other
Expressed gratitude for promised salvation and restored relationship	Covered their shame and restored their relationship

APPENDIX 2: LIVING FROM FLESH VS. LIVING FROM CHRIST

LIVING FROM THE FLESH

Self as The Source

Taking God's truth along with our own ability, intellect, and willpower to try to produce a Christ-centered marriage

Performance-Driven Marriage

Dependence upon formulas to follow and tips and techniques to produce a Christ-centered marriage through your own ability.

Unmet Needs Met in Self

Trying to get our God-given needs met from our spouse or others.

Fleshly Rights and Expectations

Justifying our fleshly rights and unrealistic expectations in your marriage.

LIVING FROM CHRIST

Christ as The Source

Living from Christ's truth, ability, and power as the one true source to produce a Christ-centered marriage. (John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

Christ-Dependent Marriage

Trusting Christ by faith and depending on Him to produce a Christ-centered marriage. (John 15:5)

Unmet Needs Met in Christ

Drawing upon Christ to meet our God-given needs. (Philippians 4:19)

Rights and Expectations in Christ

Dying to our fleshly rights and unrealistic expectations. (2 Corinthians 4:11)

APPENDIX 3: WHEN WE ABIDE

Love – Galatians 5:22

Peace – Ephesians 2:14

Adequacy – 2 Corinthians 3:5

Compassion – Psalm 25:6

Intimacy – Psalm 139:3

Wisdom – 1 Corinthians 1:30

Perseverance – Hebrews 12:2

Courage – John 16:33

Freedom – John 8:32

Joy – John 15:11

Kindness – Galatians 5:22

Acceptance – Romans 15:7

Forgiveness – Daniel 9:9

Trust – Romans 15:5

Security – Proverbs 1:33

Strength – Romans 6:10

Deliverance – Psalm 18:2

Rest – Matthew 11:28

EQUIP: MARRIAGE | Practical Next Steps

Marriage in God's Design is more than just a relationship between two people, it's a reflection of the covenantal relationship of Christ and his Church (*Ephesians 5:22-33*.) After this guide, take time to pursue some practical next steps that we've created which have been designed to help you focus on honoring Christ as you honor each other.

EQUIP

practical tools for your faith

I will pray for you daily this week:
Ask for specific prayer requests.

I will serve you this week:
Ask your mate for input and decide what you will do daily.

I will commit to doing something fun _____ times this week:
Discuss what you like doing and can practically do this week.

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

We have created a 3-week Curriculum for small groups that follow the contents of this guide.

You can find the study and other great follow-up content at austinridge.org/equip

LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST

EQUIP has a podcast for every topic we go over. You can find our podcast on iTunes or Stitcher by searching "EQUIP Austin Ridge" or on our website at austinridge.org/equip