



Family Discussion Guide

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FEATURING

Sacred Vow

MARRIAGE



When Doug and Amber are dating, what signs show you that they're in love? In their vows, what kinds of commitments and actions do they declare to each other that they will do? It may seem like a simple question, but it's not: Why should we take marriage vows seriously?



Read Matthew 19:3-6 and Ephesians 5:22-33



How do the vows Doug and Amber make reflect the commands in this Bible passage? Why do you think the commands to the husband and the wife are different? When people break their marriage vows, what are the consequences to their marriage, to their family, and to the culture?

ADULTERY



What does the other woman claim to offer to Doug that entices him to want to leave Amber? While it is never explicitly stated or shown in the film, what stages do you think Doug went through that took him from being a committed husband to breaking his vows by committing adultery?



Read Proverbs 7:6-27



At which points in the journey could the "young man" have avoided committing adultery? Why is it easier to stop earlier in that journey than later? How do the promises of adultery compare to the actual outcomes of adultery? How can committing to the principles in Ephesians keep us off the adulterous path?

GRACE AND MERCY



How would most spouses respond to an affair and a request for divorce? What explains Amber's very different approach? Why does Doug, at first, reject her conditions? What stages does Doug go through that lead him from resistance to renewal of his love for Amber? Why can't the other woman compete with Amber's approach?



Read Matthew 19:9 and 1 Corinthians 7:10-16



Why does God allow for divorce in cases of adultery? Some married people, even after adultery occurs, don't divorce. What is the difference between grace and mercy? When grace and mercy are extended to people who have hurt us, how might people respond? How can we develop an attitude of grace and mercy toward others?

LOVE IS ACTION



Despite Amber's deep hurt, what does she require Doug to do, though it means he stays in the house? What do those actions require Amber to do that, at first, may have been uncomfortable for her? Describe a time when you were determined to do a good, yet unpleasant or difficult, task because it was the right thing to do.



Read Matthew 21:28-31 and John 14:15, 21



In our culture, love is described primarily as a feeling. What differentiates the two brothers in the parable? Why does God use obedience to His commands as a measure of our love for Him? How does enduring suffering by choosing to love God lead to a good outcome?