



HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#) and then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes) - For Leaders

Have an ice-breaker ready, eat a snack together, or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting. Be intentional in helping your group members get to know one another during this time and make it fun.

Use the [Who Did It?](#) ice-breaker, choose from one of the other ice breakers on Emmanuel's [leader tools](#), or create your own.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes) - For Leaders

Ask your group what they learned after completing their action step. Last week's question was, *"What specific action step can you begin this week to exercise trust in a personal area that you struggle with?"*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

The current series is called "Making It Work" because relationships are important but require a great deal of effort to thrive. Everyone has important relationships in his or her life – spouse, friend, family, co-worker, neighbor, classmate, and more. Think of all the things that have to be worked on to make a relationship work. Two individuals will have different upbringings, values, fears, hopes, dreams, worldviews, past hurts, experiences, expectations, insecurities, and so much more. No wonder it is hard work to make any relationship strong.

1. Some restaurants and stores seem to know the perfect formula for making the customer feel valued and vital. What places have you visited that are the best at this, and what did they do to make you feel special?

These businesses have figured out how to create positive relationships with their customers even in a short transaction, which keeps them coming back. This series is all about making relationships work. Just think about how much more critical the relationships in our lives are than the business/customer relationship.



Making It Work – Week 1

Jot down the names of relationships that are the most important in your life right now. These are the people you will refer to in answering today's discussion questions.

- If you are married, the most important relationship is with your spouse.
- If you are single, consider your roommate, family members, close friends, boyfriend/girlfriend, and/or co-workers to whom you are closest.
- If you are a student, think about your parents, siblings, classmates, teammates, and teachers.

Read [Romans 12:10 \(NLT\)](#). Outdoing one another in showing honor is not an automatic action in our human nature. Still, it can make a significant impact on the health of our relationships. What is something you have done in the past or something that someone has done for you that has made a relationship stronger or made you feel valued and honored?

Why do you think this action had such a positive influence that you still remember it today?

2. Read [Proverbs 12:25 \(NLT\)](#) and [John 13:15 \(NLT\)](#). People tend to reciprocate the behavior they receive. It is valuable for us to do what Scripture advises by "outdoing each other" in showing honor. In showing this to others, we are modeling what Jesus did for us. Most importantly, He did this when he gave his life for us while we were still sinners.

The idea of showing honor is excellent in theory but often is challenging to execute daily. What gets in the way of you outdoing one another in showing honor?

3. In this week's message, we explored four ways to try to outdo each other.
- Encourage as much as you can.
 - Show appreciation daily.
 - Respond quickly to needs.
 - Make room for faults. (However, we shouldn't overlook all faults, such as abuse or infidelity.)

In your relationship, which of these is the easiest for you to do? Which one is the hardest? Why?

It can be tempting to maintain a list of frustrations. Read [Colossians 3:13 \(NLT\)](#). In what areas are you holding onto offenses? Are there areas that you need to give more allowances?

What differences in your relationships might you experience if you decided to overlook something that generally brings you feelings of tension or disunity?



Making It Work – Week 1

4. What are some of the daily, purposeful things you will commit to doing to show your spouse honor this week? What is something you could do to encourage or appreciate an important friend or family member? Take action with some tangible ways that you can do that this week. Be ready to share with the group next week how it went.

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Write down and execute** 2-3 tangible ways you can show appreciation and encouragement to your spouse or essential relationship this week.
- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship.
- 2) To encourage them to accomplish their action step.
- 3) To pray for in a specific way.

Ask them to place the index card on their nightstand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14 | [VERB](#)

February 18 | [1824](#)

March 10 | [Night of Worship](#) and [Singles Happy Hour](#)

April 4 | [Baptism Service](#)

You can find more information on all of these events at eclife.org.
