



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 following ice breaker question, choose from one of the other ice breakers on Emmanuel's [leader tools](#), or create your own.

It's been cold and gloomy outside so let's dream a little. If you could choose one vacation destination, where would you pick and why?

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

Ask your group what they learned after completing their action step. Last week's question was, *"What are some of the daily, purposeful things you will commit to doing to show your spouse or friend honor this week?"*

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. Life gets busy, so with any relationship, we must be intentional and never take others in our life for granted.

Like last week, 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.

Pastor Danny and his wife, Jackie, shared 5 ways that they make their marriage work. During today's small group discussion, you will have the opportunity to talk about how each of these can be applied in your relationships as well.



Making It Work – Week 2

1. What drew you and the other person together at the start of your relationship? What qualities does this person exemplify that made them stick out over anyone else?

Since life can become busy, chaotic, and sometimes just plain redundant, it is easy to begin to take our loved ones for granted. What things in your day to day life have the potential to distract you from your marriage or relationships with a close friend?

How can you deliberately work to stay interested in each other to build your relationship over time?

2. Unspoken expectations can lead to tension and conflict with others in our lives. Whether you are in a friendship, roommate relationship, dating relationship, or marriage, what are some unspoken expectations that can be a source of conflict in relationships?

How might your relationship be stronger if you regularly and openly discuss expectations before they become a source of conflict?

3. Read [Proverbs 15:1 \(NLT\)](#). In every relationship, we should avoid negative or hurtful communication. Think about the last time you had a conflict with your spouse or a significant person in your life where you went into defense or attack mode. This mode might have looked like the silent treatment or maybe even a heated argument.

How might that experience have been different if you approached it with the method suggested by author Gary Chapman?

- Ask permission- Is this a good time to talk?
- Front load with goodness and show appreciation.
- Talk about the issue without personal pronouns.
- Close with kindness.



Making It Work – Week 2

Read [Colossians 4:6 \(NLT\)](#). The way we talk with our loved ones can dramatically change our communication outcome with each other. This weekend we explored some responses to avoid negative communication. These include but are not limited to:

- Name calling
- Foul language
- Walking away
- Harsh correction
- Shaming
- Bringing up the past
- Interrupting
- Raising your voice
- Eye rolling
- Silent treatment

What responses are hardest for you to avoid when faced with a difficult conversation with your spouse or friend?

4. To build a healthy marriage or relationship with another individual, it is important to create a vision for your relationship. [Proverbs 29:18](#) tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." As Christ-followers, we are on a relentless pursuit to tell others about Christ and grow our understanding of his love and purpose for our own lives.

How can you start now and create a vision for your most important relationship(s)?

Building strong relationships takes work and is built over time. The key is to start somewhere. Of all the areas discussed this weekend, where do you need to start?

1. Stay interested in one another.
2. Agree on expectations.
3. Attack problems, not your spouse.
4. Avoid all negative communication.
5. Create a vision for your marriage.

Develop an action step to begin implementing that strategy in your marriage or relationship this week and share it with your group for accountability.

What questions would you like to see Danny and Jackie address next week? Text the word **QUESTION** to [65248](#). You will then receive a message to submit your question.



Making It Work – Week 2

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Develop** a smart goal around one or more of the 5 areas of a healthy marriage discussed this week.
- **Read** *The Five Love Languages* or *The Marriage You've Always Wanted* by Gary Chapman.
- **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 18 | [1824](#)

March 1 | [Foster and Adoption Care Community Orientations](#)

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

April 4 | [Baptism Service](#)

March 7 | [VERB](#)

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