



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.

If you could give a piece of advice to your younger self, what would it be?

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

Ask your group what they learned after completing their action step. Last week, we challenged you to develop an action step to begin implementing that strategy in your marriage or relationship this week.



Making It Work – Week 3

QUESTIONS FOR MARRIED COUPLE GROUPS

*for all other groups, please see questions on page 4

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 you have to work 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.

This week Pastor Danny and his wife, Jackie, answered many questions submitted by people who attend Emmanuel Church. This week, we will take the opportunity to dig deeper into how those ideas impact our marriages and relationships.

1. It seems like everyone is busy. Busy with work, kids, chores, activities, and the list goes on and on. What are some things in your marriage that can stand in the way of creating deliberate time with your spouse?

Danny and Jackie also addressed the idea of expressing love in your spouse's love language, even when you don't feel like it.

Are you making any assumptions about your spouse's needs? How can you consider your spouse's needs as you plan out your time so that you make your marriage a priority?

2. When we enter marriage, we begin to learn about ourselves and our spouses in a deeper way than we could accomplish in dating. What is one virtue or character quality that you realized you needed to grow once you got married?

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how important is it for you to win in conflict?

Read [Philippians 2:3-5 \(NLT\)](#). Share a time that conflict affected your marriage. How did you solve it as a team?

How are you working as a team to ensure you are chasing the right answer and not just seeking to be right?

4. Amy Rees Anderson said, "Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair." All of us have been in relationships where trust was broken in some way, and the pain of that cuts deep. In marriage, this can look like infidelity, consumption of pornography, or other hidden sins.



Making It Work – Week 3

What boundaries can you put in place to protect your marriage from people or circumstances that can lead to breaking trust?

Media brings a myriad of potential pitfalls. These can be damaging to us and our partners. Where are you vulnerable online? What are you doing to protect yourself and your marriage?



Making It Work – Week 3

QUESTIONS FOR ALL OTHER GROUPS

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.

This week Pastor Danny and his wife, Jackie, answered many questions submitted by people who attend Emmanuel Church. While most of the questions addressed were about married relationships, today, we will take a deeper look into important relationships in your life.

1. Besides your family, who would you call when faced with a difficult issue like being diagnosed with a severe illness or losing your job? What are the characteristics of a friend that you would invite into the hardest seasons of your life?

What type of value do these types of friendships bring to your life?

2. This weekend, Pastor Danny mentioned the need for establishing boundaries. Why are boundaries important when you are in platonic, co-ed or dating relationships or even sometimes in friendships?

What personal boundaries do you need to put in place to ensure that you can maintain your integrity and goals as you seek to honor God with your life?

3. Read [Proverbs 27:6 \(NLT\)](#). A good friend is one that will tell us the truth and help us to identify blind spots that keep us from living the abundant life. In the past, how well do you receive a friend's rebuke or challenge when it doesn't seem encouraging?

Give an example of a time you had a friend challenge you. Did you choose to take the wise counsel or did you ignore it?

4. Read [2 Corinthians 6:14-15 \(NLT\)](#). Do your friends share your faith and values? Do you have other believers with whom you are friends? How can we maintain healthy relationships with others that don't share the same view of faith or life choices?



Making It Work – Week 3

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Read** *The Five Love Languages* or *The Marriage You've Always Wanted* by Gary Chapman or *Boundaries* by *Dr. Henry Cloud*.
- **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

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

March 7 | [VERB](#)

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

March 15 | [Impact Team Night](#)

April 4 | [Baptism Service](#)

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



MIDDLE SCHOOL OBJECT LESSON & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

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

ACTIVITY:

Materials needed:

-Printed cards for the game

To play:

-Lay all the cards on the floor, face down, in a memory game type format.

-Tell students that we are playing a memory game about famous friends. The goal is to find matches of friends from the Bible, TV, and movies. Once they match up the friends, they keep the cards. If your group is large, you might have them work in pairs.

-The game ends when all matches are made, and the winner is the pair with the most matches.

1. When you think about your closest friends, what characteristics do they display that make them a good friend to you?

When was a time you went out of your way to help a friend?

2. Read Luke 5:17-26. This is an amazing story about friendship, and that is what we are going to talk about today.

Why were the men unable to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus? What did they do when they couldn't make their way into the house?

I doubt you will ever have to dig a hole in a roof to get your friends the help they need. How might your friends need help in getting to know Jesus?

3. Consider the different ways that we can bring our friends before Jesus. On a notecard, write the name of one friend that might need you to pray for them or invite them to church to hear about Jesus.

Now, write two ways that you can be a good friend to them this week. That might mean that you invite them to small group or a weekend service. It could mean that you set an alarm on your phone each day to pray for them specifically. It could be that you say something encouraging to them whenever you see them. What can you do to be a friend like the men in our story? (Take the notecard with you and put it in a place where it will remind you of your friend every day.)



Making It Work – Week 3

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