

January 15, 2012

Rob and Coby Hogendoorn

Somethin's Not Workin ... My Marriage

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### **Summary**

Today we're tackling one of the most joy-causing and misery-causing relationships in life: "Marriage". The Bible is clear that the concept as well as institution of marriage is God's idea. The Bible is also very realistic about the frailties, faults and weaknesses that have permeated human beings since the Fall. In their talk, Rob and Coby are gleaning from Scripture some of the best habits for strengthening or restoring marriages, and that will be our focus tonight.

### **Connecting Questions:**

- 1) Take a few minutes to share with the group a marriage you admire. What factors make it so appealing and inspiring to you?
- 2) The drama exposed some of the stereotypical differences in how men and women approach marriage. Share with each other if you think that portrayal is pretty accurate, or not?

### **Truth Questions:**

- 1) Split up the following verses to be read by different people:
  - a. Song of Songs (Solomon) 1:1-4, 4:1-3, 4:10-11, 5:10-14. (Check Bible Table of Contents)
  - b. Each of these verses highlights the physical component of love and attraction.
  - c. Discuss why some people might struggle with giving or receiving intentional, daily physical touch.
- 2) Along with the daily habit of taking time to touch, Rob and Coby mentioned the habit of finding something that makes you both laugh. Discuss what obstacles sometimes need to be overcome to make this happen?
- 3) In the "Boost Your Partner's Self-Esteem" point, Rob and Coby talked a bit about paying attention to the tone of your voice. Have someone read (Proverbs 15:1). Can anyone think of any recent examples of the truth of this proverb in their life?
- 4) Consider what (1 John 4:16-18) says about love and God's role in it. What strikes you most about what's being said in these verses?
- 5) Another passage Rob could have used to talk about the monthly habit of assessing your "Big things/little things" focus is (Matthew 7:3-5). What is Jesus' main advice for preventing focusing on "specks of dust" - little things?

### **Transformational Questions:**

- 1) If you are currently married, which of these habits come most naturally and effortlessly to you, and which do you need to re-commit yourself to developing?
- 2) If you aren't married right now; which of these is easiest for you in your relationships (since most of these five habits apply to all important relationships)? Which is most difficult?
- 3) Close with a prayer for the marriages in the group both present and future.