

## 4

## HEALTHY MARRIAGE 4

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## Respect: How Wives Fulfill Their Role in Marriage

## ASSIGNMENTS

- **MISSION** – Encourage your JG to begin the Mission section first as early as possible each week.

This week your JG has two mission assignments.

- Continue working on the **60-Second Testimony** exercise.
- The second assignment is the same as last week, to have a spiritual conversation with their spouse or accountability partner. The emphasis is to see what your JG members learn about their partner's spiritual life, so be sure to ask some appropriate questions about this.

## EXERCISES

- Review the memory verse of the week.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year JG members should share their testimony this week.

## DISCUSSIONS

- **TRUTH** – Review a few of the **IN BIBLE** questions you like. Here are some tips:
  - **EPHESIANS 5:22-24, 33; COLOSSIANS 3:18** – Some in your JG may find it hard to take these verses at face value. You may need to stress the unconditional nature of these instructions, that is, that any obedience that must be rendered “*as to the Lord*”, must be unconditional.
  - **1 PETER 3:1-6** – Peter’s counsel to wives of unbelievers is that they submit to them so that they may be won by their respectful conduct. He also counsels them to focus on the beauty of a gentle demeanor, which will be highly valued by their husbands, and to put their hope in God without giving in to fear.

- **TRUTH** – This week, the main points you should stress are:

- Submission does not imply inferiority, nor give license to husbands to exploit or abuse their wives.
- Wives fulfill their role of submission in marriage by learning to treat their husbands with unconditional respect.
- Wives must learn to hope in God's care rather than fear exploitation if they submit to their husbands in marriage. With God's help a woman can learn how to be obedient to God in her marriage even when her husband has serious character flaws or is an unwise leader.
- Husbands must understand the unique responsibility they have to set the tone for harmony in the marriage. A husband can win his wife's trust and respect, or make her regret that she ever promised it.

- **EQUIPPING** – If you lead a ladies' JG, you may want to allow for an extended discussion of the second equipping question. Some ladies may wish to share their fears/worries. If you sense that any of your ladies are in an abusive situation, make sure you seek the counsel and help of your church's leadership.

All JG leaders can discuss respect as a choice one makes about how to treat someone vs. a feeling. Try to draw a parallel between this and the idea of love being primarily a choice/commitment in action rather an emotion. Discuss how both a husbands' love and a wife's respect can be unconditional.

- **ACCOUNTABILITY** – allow time for smaller groups of two or three to ask accountability questions and pray for one another.
- **MISSION** – Be sure to allow adequate time for 1<sup>st</sup> year members to share their **60-Second Testimony** and receive coaching.
- **MISSION** – Invite a few JG members to share their experience having a spiritual conversation with their spouse (or potential spouse).