**Small Group Discussion Guide**

**The Marriage Panel**

**March 3-4, 2018**

Here is a list of the questions exactly how I gave them to the panel. Pick the questions that you think you would like to talk about. Talk about their answers, your answers, and how you think your parents might answer (especially if your group includes singles). I think you will have a lot of fun with this! -dm

The Color Code: Blue –answers should be substantial

 Red – Doug will answer

 Green – answers should be concise

 Black – might not ask

Where did you meet – how long did you date – how long have you been married/ ---- # of children

Besides good looks – what attracted you to the other person?

When did you think – this is a keeper?

Have you had training or gotten counseling for your marriage?

(Including premarital)

Last week we talked about differences – what are some of the differences you discovered after getting married – how have you negotiated them?

How do you or have you fanned the flames of love?

Do you have some habits that help your marriage?

Have you had to lower your expectations about your marriage? Reality different from how you imagined?

In our busy world… How do we find time for each other?

Why is sex so important in marriage?

What is a normal or healthy amount of sex in a week?

One partner is very giving sexually while the other is not

 **How have you resolved differences in libido?**

How do you fight?

 Have you ever been close to divorce?

 Have you felt like quitting – how did you restore?

 Have you ever had counseling – was it helpful?

Why is saying “I’m sorry” so hard in marriage?

How do you show God's grace to someone who is unloveable at times?

 What have you learned about conflict in your marriage?

How do you divide responsibilities?

What scriptures have you turned to for help in your marriage?

What investments have you made in your marriage that afterwards you found yourself saying “I’m so glad we did that.”

How is God in and affecting your marriage?

How do you handle financial management and planning when one of you is a big planner/saver and the other is much more of a spender and trust God will provide in the future?

How did children affect your marriage (good and challenges)?

What is really good advice you received along the way?

What is some really poor advice you’ve heard along the way?

When do you feel loved by your spouse?

Best book you've read on relationships?

What do you do with the ongoing never changing irritating habits of your spouse?

What do you do when you're in a relationship where your partner questions your faith on a constant basis, not on the same page?

How have your differences affected your marriage good/bad?

What are your differences?

Do you have the same fights over and over? How do you break the pattern?

Do you have role models or mentors?

How do you give the benefit of the doubt when you can predict behavior or have been hurt in the past?

What advice would you give to single people who are dating?

What mistake have you made in your marriage/relationships that you hope your kids don’t repeat?

How do you encourage each other spiritually?