

The Four Priorities Chapter 15

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 15: Making Your Marriage Sizzle (Part 1)

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

**Open
(10 min.)**

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Do: Open in prayer.

**Recap
(5 min.)**

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week. We discussed:

- Priority 3, the importance of personal, progressive commitments to relationships.
 - Having a mindset shift from “What’s in it for me?” to “How well am I serving others?” We read about Jesus’ teaching of serving one another well and with sacrifice.
 - We briefly talked about the importance of serving one another within the body of Christ. Why that matters is because we are each uniquely equipped with spiritual gifts that help one another. When those giftings are used together, it helps the entire body grow.
(Read Ephesians 4:11-16. *Point out “as each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow.”*)
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**Discuss
(20 min.)**

Ask:

- One part of our homework was to write a eulogy or write what you would want to be your legacy when you die. (both of you share)
- Was this easy or challenging to write? Why?
- What would you say is the most important quality in a relationship (no matter the depth of intimacy)? (share) – you might hear qualities such as trust, friendship, communication, reliability, etc.)
- How would you summarize Chapter 15? (The basis of good relationships and marriages needs good communication, which isn’t always practiced and may be more challenging for men than women.)



**Paragraphs,
pgs. 153-155
(15 min.)**

Say: The author discusses the differences between men and women, their communication styles, and their need for connection or for solitude.

Ask:

- What were you able to relate to from these pages?
- Have you experienced frustrations with the opposite sex because of how they want to (or don't want to) communicate? Explain.
- On page 154, the author says, "By understanding how *God created* men and women..." – Had you considered that God created and uses those *opposite* natures of man and woman to bring them *together* for a plan and purpose? Explain.
- How might this help you to better your communication with the opposite sex?

**The Sizzles
#1-2, pgs. 156-
160
(20 min)**

Say: These teachings are helpful for any relationship.

Ask:

- What stood out to you from Sizzle #1: Commitment?
- The quote, "Get your doer doing, and your feeler will follow," goes along with the notion that love is not a feeling, but rather an action. How does this line up with John 15:9-14? (read together)
- What stood out to you from Sizzle #2: Communication through page 160?
- From page 159, what level of conversation would you say you are at currently with either a spouse, significant other, or loved one? Explain.

**Take Action
(30 min.)**

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

(Note to leader: Even if the person you disciple is not married, they can still apply these concepts to relationships in general.)

**Close
(5 min.)**

Homework: Read Chapter 16 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Note: Many of these questions and readings are pertinent to relationships in general, even if your disciple is not married. Encourage them to complete as much of the relevant chapter as possible.

Close in prayer.