

Leave For the Sake Of Your Marriage
Our Best Year Yet Pt. 3
Pastor Eric Nelson

Questions for couples to discuss: For this week's small group, we recommend spending time quietly as a couple first to discuss the questions below. After about 45 minutes, come back together to share what that experience was like.

1. Was I any good at leaving? Explain your answer.
 2. Parents, past, possessions, and power: which one was most difficult for you to leave? Why?
 3. How has trust grown in our relationship in the last 12 months?
 4. Leaving includes a shift in primacy, privacy, and power. Can you share what that shift was like for us? Where did we get this right, where did we get this wrong?
 5. How are we walking together to God's throne?
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If you don't **LEAVE**, you won't cleave.

Genesis 2:24 *That is why a man **leaves** his father and mother and is **united** to his wife, and they **become one** flesh.*

Trust can never truly be established in the beginning unless a couple severs the bonds of loyalty with their parents, past, possessions, and power. Dan Allender

Matthew 19:4-6 *"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"*

Leaving: **SHIFTING** primacy, privacy, and power to the couple, under God, away from anything else.

Primacy: anything that **INTERFERES** with the relationship gets a boundary.

Privacy: anything that causes shame or is intimate is kept **CONFIDENTIAL**.

Power: There is no **AUTHORITY** over us, other than God, that rules our lives.

Exodus 24:5 *If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.*

Pleasure includes everything from companionship to good sex. Woe to a rule or commander or parent who gets in the way of good sex. A new relationship needs time and safety to grow as a young, insecure

shoot. Only by building a boundary against the past can a couple be relatively safe from harm. Dan Allender

Exodus 20:12 *“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”*

To leave, we must sever all loyalties to a way of being that comes from a wounded **PAST**.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

The Leaving Invitation: Let's **LEAVE** our past and walk together to God's throne.