

# GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

## In the Beginning...

(part I of the 'I Do' series – 2/5/12)

### the big idea...

Scripture begins with God ([Genesis 1:1](#)) and our lives ought to also begin with God. He is to be the ultimate in our lives and everything else (including our marriages and spouses) is to be secondary to him. We were created by him & for him and if we love him first, then we will understand how to love our spouse and others in our lives. God's design for marriage can be seen clearly in [Genesis 2:21-25](#) where we are told to **receive** God's grace in our spouses, **leave** our old lives and understand that marriage is something new, **cleave** and be united with our spouses, which will lead to **oneness** – that in marriage **1 + 1 = 1**.

**For your Community Group this week – take some time to work through the following questions...**

1. Much of how we view marriage has been shaped by what we saw modeled for us growing up. How has what you saw growing up (good & bad) shaped how you view marriage. Is your current view of marriage consistent with God's view of marriage? (*'to be honored by all' – Hebrews 13:4*)
2. What kind of marriage do you want to have? Try to be practical and specific here when thinking about this question.
3. Before you say '**I Do**' – what are some things that you know you need to be correcting and/or growing in so that when you do say '**I Do**', a firm & healthy foundation has already been established? If you are married, are there areas in which you need to grow and/or repent of in order to build health into your marriage?
4. A large part of marriage problems, and problems in the Christian life, are because we look to things other than God to provide security and salvation – these become idols and functional saviors in our lives. What are some of your idols and how are they do they show up in our lives?
5. If we really understood that the people in our lives (spouses and other relationships) were demonstrations of God's grace to us, how would we treat these people differently?
6. In marriage we are told that we are picturing Christ's relationship with the church (see [Ephesians 5:31-32](#)). What do you think people see when they look at your marriage? What are you proclaiming about the relationship between Christ and the church in your marriage relationship?