

## Review of Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

I taught this book to a group of about 18 women in our Side by Side group. Our group ranged from women who are spiritually mature Christians to women who aren't sure if they believe in Christ, and everything in between. I enjoyed this book because it was biblically based and also laid out the gospel message very clearly. I would *highly* recommend this book to a group of committed Christian women who are looking for a book to help them strengthen their marriages.

That being said, there were many difficulties I had in teaching this book to a group of women that included non-Christians. The biggest challenge in teaching this book is that it is just that—a book, written by a man—and not the Bible. Therefore, the opportunity to argue with what is written is clearly present and many women in our group did take advantage of this. I spent quite a bit of time preparing each week to tie scripture into our discussion and lead women back to the Bible.

Another issue we ran in to was the lack of input from a husband's perspective. This didn't really bother me very much as I repeatedly said that our goal was to focus on what we as women can do to improve our marriages and not to focus on what we want our husbands to do or not do. However, there were still women in our class who resented the amount of time we spent discussing our roles as women and thought we should also discuss our husband's role (but what is the point, I ask, when they aren't there?!)

Eggerichs does a great job of closing the book with the gospel message, but for some women in our class, I think they may have already tired of his opinions and had mentally 'checked out'. I would have loved to teach the last two chapters of the book in the first few weeks of the class and then go from there.

With all the issues I had in teaching this book, I still really enjoyed our class and have received a lot of great feedback from women in our class. There were certain parts of the book that seemed to have stuck with various people and for that, I think it was definitely worth it.