

WEEK 1 WORKSHEETS

A. Husbands, ask your wives:

Do you know that I truly love you, and do I make it obvious? If not, what can I do to improve that?

Do you feel that I express my love to you enough in front of others so there's no question in their mind of my love for you? If not, how can I improve it?

Am I treating you as the most important person on earth to me? What could increase that feeling in you?

I promised to cherish you. Do you feel that way, and what could I do to strengthen that?

What is your greatest concern about our family, and have you felt free to express it to me? If you've expressed it, have I listened?

Do you feel that I'm helping you fulfill your God-given potential? How can I improve that?

Am I doing anything that would ever lead you to be tempted to compromise in any area? If so, what could I do to change?

Would you tell me your most significant dreams about the future?

B. Wives, ask your husbands:

Am I doing enough to make you feel adequate in our relationship and assuring you that I see you that way?

I know it's important for you to feel honored and affirmed. Do I make you feel that way, and what can I do to improve?

How can I help you best succeed at your work as you provide for the needs of our family?

Do you feel that I know and understand what your greatest dreams are for the future?

What could I do better to support your leadership in our family?

Am I doing anything that would ever lead you to be tempted to compromise in any area? If so, what could I do to change?

Bible Study

An understanding of God's original purpose for marriage will help you to walk in greater victory in your own covenant relationship with your spouse. As you gain perspective on all God has intended, your marriage can become all that God has intended it to be.

Pray Together:

“Lord, please soften our hearts and open our minds to have Your desires as we learn about marriage. We want to give up any pre-conceived worldly ideas about marriage and our personal goals for ‘changing’ our marriage partner. Lord, give us the willingness and desire to learn, to have unselfish motives, and the obedience to apply these truths in our marriage.”

Why Marriage?

These verses lay the Biblical foundation for marriage. Read them out loud and discuss what you learn and fill in the questions prompts.

Genesis 2:18-25

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

We should have a high view of marriage because it was created to _____ God. (See 1 Corinthians 10:31)

God's Purpose for Marriage

How does marriage glorify God?

- Marriage was _____ by God.

Genesis 2:18, 2:24, Matthew 19:5, Ephesians 5:31

- Marriage is _____ by God.

Psalm 105:8

- Marriage points _____ to God.

Revelation 21

From those verses, we learn many Biblical truths. Below are a few:

- Marriage is designed to bring oneness on multiple levels — spiritual, emotional, physical, and social.
- Christian marriage is between a man and a woman.
- Marriage is to reflect the image and the glory of God as God created men and women in His image. It should display the character of God and the nature of His relationship within you.
- God created man and woman for relationship with Him and each other.
- God designed marriage for children to be a blessing.
- God calls us to advance His Kingdom within marriage.

God's Purpose for Partnership

God wants to give us great joy through marriage. He also wants to develop a deep and rewarding holiness of character in both marriage partners!

Marriage helps us accomplish 1 Corinthians 3:18:

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Discuss the below points: How many of them are reasons why you've decided to get married? Be honest.

Marriage...

- is about holiness more than happiness
- is an analogy of God's union with us
- teaches us to love
- teaches us to respect others
- fosters a regular and biblical prayer life
- exposes our sin
- builds perseverance
- embraces difficulty to build character
- teaches us to forgive

- builds in us a servant's heart
- makes us more aware of God's presence
- contains sexuality, which can provide spiritual insight and character development
- is part of our calling, mission, and purpose (unless a person is called to be single, which is equally important in God's eyes — Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7)

The journey you are about to embark on should include all of these reasons and will be a lifelong learning adventure.

It is important that we seek God to develop these things in our own lives through marriage, and also that we pray for them to be developed in our spouse.

Pray Together

“Lord, we ask You to give us the desire to give one another joy in our marriage through a development of holy character in each of us. Help us be devoted to our own character development as well as our spouse's by praying for Your holiness to be worked in us each day of our marriage.”