

PERSPECTIVES

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2

MARRIAGE

MATTERS

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Water
of Life
community church



Where did God show up?

As you see the goodness of God move in your life, use this page to write down how He's blessed you. Encourage one another and celebrate victories within and/or outside of your group meetings.

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WEEK 1: OUR FATHER'S IDEA

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Pastor delves into the importance of marriage as a divine institution, reflecting God's love. Talks about misconceptions, biblical teachings on roles, and societal attitudes toward marriage. Emphasizes sacrificial love, challenges unrealistic expectations, and advocates for a biblical understanding of commitment and fulfillment in marriage.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Ephesians 5:21-25

Genesis 2:24

Ephesians 5:31-32

Corinthians 13:4-7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Pastor explains that marriage is one of the three foundational institutions ordained by God, alongside the family and the church.

- a. Why is marriage considered to be a divine institution created by God?
- b. How can a married couple live in a way that honors God's original plan for marriage?

2

Pastor referenced **Genesis 2** and **Ephesians 5** in the message. These verses indicate that marriage reflects God's love for humanity, provides a stable environment for raising children, and unites husband and wife.

- a. According to the above verses, what is the purpose of marriage?
- b. How can you apply these principles in your current or future marriage?

3

Society now focuses on individual happiness and compatibility in marriage, whereas the Bible emphasizes commitment, character building, and sacrificial love.

- a. What did the message say about the current cultural attitudes towards marriage and how they differ from biblical principles?
- b. In what ways can we challenge and transform cultural attitudes in our own relationships and marriages?

4

The Bible does not endorse polygamy or prostitution, recognizing their negative consequences. However, when it comes to singleness, it is not inherently negative; rather, the Bible emphasizes the value and worth of a single life.

- a. What are some misconceptions about marriage that were debunked in the sermon?
- b. How can we educate ourselves and others on what the Bible truly teaches about marriage and relationships?

Pastor reminds us that marriage serves as a reflection of Christ's sacrificial love for the church, where fulfillment comes through sacrifice.

- a. How does the concept of fulfillment through sacrifice in marriage reflect Christ's love for the church?
- b. What are some practical ways we can practice sacrificial love in our marriages or relationships to embody Christ's love?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

Marriage is a mystery; it is full of unknowns and many, many things to learn. In marriage, there is one thing we can stand on, Jesus loves us sacrificially and so should we love our spouse or future spouse.

1. If you are married, in what ways might you not be fully loving your spouse sacrificially? What are some small ways you can start to change that today?
2. How have the role models you have had, or might not have had, affected your view on marriage, unity in marriage, and God's plan for marriage?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Ask God to help us embrace His design for marriage as taught in His word, the Bible.
- Pray for strength and patience to love sacrificially within marriages or future marriages and relationships.
- Request God's guidance in building character and creating stable environments for our families.

NOTES



WEEK 2: STAYING IN WHEN WE WANT OUT

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

In the sermon, Pastor explores challenges in marriages and offers guidance. He highlights the need to address common issues like communication breakdown and neglecting intimacy. Pastor emphasizes the biblical principles of love and respect as pillars of a thriving marriage. He encourages proactive investment in relationships to strengthen bonds and navigate conflicts wisely.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Hebrews 13:4

Ephesians 5:28

Ephesians 5:33

1 Peter 3:7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Love and respect are essential aspects of a marriage and their absence can lead to issues and even divorce.

- a. What are the potential consequences of lacking love and respect in a marriage?
- b. How can someone actively demonstrate love and respect for their spouse in ways that strengthen their marriage?

2

The pastor discussed how these verses emphasize the importance of love and respect in a marriage, with husbands loving their wives as their own bodies, and wives respecting their husbands.

- a. How do the teachings of **Ephesians 5:28, 31**, and **33** apply to modern marriages?
- b. What specific actions can those who are married take to align their marriages with these biblical teachings?

3

Men often crave respect more than love, while women desire love and approval.

- a. Why do you think men and women have different primary emotional needs in a marriage relationship?
- b. How can a married couple better understand and meet their spouse's primary emotional needs.

4

The pastor encouraged couples to approach disagreements in a healthy manner, maintaining respect and consideration for one another, instead of avoiding conflict or shutting down.

- a. What are some effective communication strategies for resolving conflicts in a marriage?
- b. How can these strategies be implemented when addressing disagreements with a spouse.

5

Pastor advised couples to nurture and cherish their relationship and not wait until a crisis arises to work on the marriage.

- a. In what ways can one proactively invest in their marriage to prevent major issues from arising?

- b.** What steps can a married couple take to prioritize their marriage and ensure its longevity and fulfillment?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

Marriage is an act of honoring one another. When we honor one another, we honor God.

- 1.** If you are married, are you able to identify two issues that have prevent you from honoring your marriage? What specifically will you do to turn that around to enable you to honor your marriage?
- 2.** What specific action will you take to put God at the forefront of your marriage or future marriage?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Pray for wisdom and skills to handle marital/relationship conflicts positively.
- Ask God to help us show unconditional love and respect to our spouses or how to be prepared to show love to your future spouse.
- Pray for strength to communicate respectfully and avoid harmful behaviors like criticism and contempt in our relationships.

NOTES



WEEK 3: WHY COMMITMENT COUNTS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

We explored the significance of commitment, promises, and covenant in marriage, emphasizing biblical teachings on love and relationships. Pastor cautions against the trend of cohabitation and highlights the benefits of a committed marriage based on mutual giving and fulfillment. He underlines the importance of promises in building stability and healthy relationships, citing Scripture and research findings. The sermon underscores the action of love over feelings and emphasizes the lifelong journey of knowing, loving, and growing with one's spouse in marriage.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Hebrews 13:4

Ephesians 5:31-33

Genesis 2:24

Malachi 2:14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

In the sermon, Pastor mentioned **Hebrews 13:4** which instructs believers to honor marriage and remain faithful to one another.

- a. How does **Hebrews 13:4** emphasize the importance of commitment in a marriage?
- b. How can you integrate the teachings of **Hebrews 13:4** into your own relationships or future marriage?

2

Pastor emphasized the strength of keeping promises, explaining how they can create stability and nurture healthy relationships, unlike relying solely on emotions, which can be unpredictable.

- a. How does the concept of promising control the unpredictable nature of relationships, as mentioned in the sermon?
- b. How can making promises and commitments in your relationships help you create a stable and nurturing environment for personal growth?

3

The biblical perspective on commitment was highlighted, emphasizing the importance of mutual giving in marriage, making it the most significant relationship in one's life.

- a. Why is it important to prioritize the marriage relationship over other relationships?
- b. In what ways can you prioritize and nurture your marriage (or future marriage) to ensure its lasting success and happiness?

4

It was explained that marriage reveals parts of oneself and one's spouse that were previously unknown, allowing for growth, repentance, forgiveness, and restoration.

- a. How does the journey of self-discovery in marriage lead to personal growth and a stronger bond between spouses?
- b. How can you apply this concept of self-discovery and growth to your current or future marriage?

Pastor references **Ephesians 5:28-33** and highlights that strong relationships are built through actions of love rather than relying solely on the presence of strong feelings.

- a. Why is it important to focus on actions of love over feelings of love, as emphasized in **Ephesians 5:28-33**?
- b. Can you think of examples or personal experiences where putting love into action made a significant difference in a relationship?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

Regardless of your marital status, Pastor talked about three paths to a long and successful marriage.

1. Regarding personal change, have you really done a self-assessment as to what baggage you are carrying in your single life or marriage? Have you just been brushing off those consistent complaints by your friends or spouse as "that's just the way I am?"
2. What steps have you taken to actively learn new tools for better communication and understanding with your spouse or others? Have you attended a class, read books, or sought counseling? Simply recognizing the need for change is not the same as taking action to make those changes.
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PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Pray for God's guidance in showing love as an action, not just a feeling.
- Seek strength in commitment and sacrifice as foundational to fulfilling relationships.
- Ask for God's protection and emotional health in marriages.



WEEK 4: DEALING WITH THE DEVASTATION OF DIVORCE

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

In the sermon *"Marriage Matters Part IV: Dealing with the Devastation of Divorce,"* Pastor tackles the sensitive topic of divorce, offering guidance to Christians facing failed relationships. Highlighting the alarming rise in divorce rates, Pastor emphasizes the need for compassion and support for those affected. Drawing from biblical teachings, he explores the complexities of divorce and its profound impact on individuals and families. He calls for the church community to extend love and healing to those experiencing the pain of divorce, emphasizing the potential for restoration and growth.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Malachi 2:13-16

Matthew 19:6

1 Corinthians 7:15

Romans 5:20

Galatians 6:2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

During the sermon, Pastor mentioned death, adultery, and desertion as the three biblical reasons for divorce.

- a. How can we better understand the three biblical reasons for divorce?
- b. Have you ever encountered a situation where any of these reasons were justified, and how did you offer support?

2

Pastor emphasized the importance of ministries such as divorce recovery and called for the church to step up and provide healing and help.

- a. How can the church community help support those who have gone through a divorce?
- b. What practical steps can your small group take to make sure members feel supported during this traumatic time in their lives?

3

The sermon mentioned the need for healing from anger, rejection, and depression caused by past experiences/divorce.

- a. Why do you think the failure rates for subsequent marriages after divorce are concerning according to the sermon?
- b. What steps can one take to ensure growth and healing after a divorce, before entering into another relationship?

4

Pastor mentioned the emotional, spiritual, physical, and mental pain caused by divorce, and the various difficulties faced by affected children.

- a. In what ways have you seen or experienced divorce having long-lasting effects on individuals and their families, particularly children?

5

A passage was referenced to emphasize that marriage was intended to be permanent.

- a. How does **Malachi 2:13-16** relate to the subject of divorce and its consequences?

- b.** How can we apply this understanding of marriage commitment to our own relationships, and encourage others in their marriages as well?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

Pastor mentioned that a husband should always remain loyal to their spouse as scripture (God) tells us. This applies to both the husband and wife.

- 1.** In the workplace, in your neighborhood, or through media, do you guard yourself from forming overly intimate or "friendly" relationships with the opposite sex that should be reserved for your spouse? If you're not married, do you set appropriate boundaries in your relationships to honor the commitments you've made or the values you hold?
- 2.** Do you keep secrets from your spouse or those close to you? Why?
- 3.** Are you faithful in your actions, in your mind, and in your heart to your spouse, or, if unmarried, to the principles and promises you've made in your relationships?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Ask God to bring healing to those affected by divorce.
- Seek wisdom in showing grace and compassion to those experiencing relational hardships.
- Pray for the church's role in supporting and encouraging those going through difficult times.

NOTES



WEEK 5: ADULTERY, SEDUCTION & DEATH

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The sermon titled *"Marriage Matters Part V: Adultery, Seduction, and Death"* by Pastor delves into the complexities of relationships, focusing on trust, betrayal, and healing. Trust is identified as a vital component for healthy relationships, citing examples like the betrayal of Jesus by Judas to underline the damage of betrayal. Betrayal, especially through adultery, is discussed as a severe breach of trust that erodes relationships at a deep level. The sermon emphasizes the importance of cherishing, respecting, and committing to one another to prevent betrayals, highlighting the need for consistent care and attention in relationships to avoid neglect.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 20:29

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

1 Peter 2:17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Pastor emphasized the importance of trust in all relationships, referring to **Exodus 22:9** as a reminder of the consequences of breaching trust.

- a. What are some ways to build and maintain trust in our relationships, especially in a marriage?
- b. How can you personally improve trust-building in your own relationships?

2

There are stages of betrayal, including lies, coalitions, disinterest, unfairness, and disrespect.

- a. Betrayal can occur in various forms, how can we recognize signs of betrayal in our relationships and work towards addressing them?
- b. What steps can we take to prevent instances of betrayal in our own lives and relationships?

3

The sermon highlights the importance of cherishing one another, referring to **Proverbs 31:11-12** as an example of a woman who does good to her husband.

- a. Based on **Proverbs 31:11-12**, how can we cherish our partners in a marriage and protect our relationships from adultery?
- b. What specific actions can a husband or wife take to cherish their spouse more and strengthen their relationship?

4

Pastor discussed the journey of healing from betrayal, highlighting that genuine repentance, remorse, and sorrow are signs that can lead to the possibility of healing.

- a. Forgiveness plays a significant role in healing from betrayals. How can we practice forgiveness and work towards reconciling in cases of repentance?
- b. What are some personal barriers you might have in offering forgiveness in your own relationships, and how can you work to overcome them?

Just as a car needs regular servicing, relationships require consistent care and attention to function properly and prevent betrayal.

- a. How can we consistently care for and maintain our relationships, similar to how a car needs regular maintenance?
- b. What specific actions can you implement in your own relationships to ensure consistent care and attention?

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

Pastor's message on *"Adultery, Seduction, and Death"* reminds us of the grave consequences that betrayal can bring to a marriage and the importance of safeguarding our relationships. Whether we are married or not, these principles challenge us to reflect on our own lives and relationships.

1. Trust is foundational in any relationship. Are we committed to being fully transparent with our spouses or those close to us? Reflect on whether there are areas in your life where secrets or hidden actions are damaging trust. What steps can you take to be more honest and open?
2. Faithfulness goes beyond physical actions; it includes our thoughts, desires, and intentions. Are we remaining faithful to our spouses in every aspect of our lives? If unmarried, are we faithful to the values and commitments we've made in our other relationships? Take time to evaluate where you might need to realign your heart and mind with God's standards.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Ask God to help us be honest, transparent, and accountable in our relationships.
- Pray for the strength to avoid and resist temptations that threaten trust.
- Seek guidance in restoring and healing relationships damaged by betrayal.

Prayer Requests

Note your prayer requests and fellow small group members' prayer requests here and pray for one another throughout the week.

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