



Marriage: It's Bigger Than You

01 KEY TAKEAWAYS

• **Marriage is a gift, not our invention.** God designed marriage before sin ever entered the world. It's his idea to define, not ours to redefine.

Genesis 2:18-24

• **One flesh means a life fully shared.** Marriage is a comprehensive oneness - two lives, one story, held together without shame or hiding.

Genesis 2:24-25

• **Earthly marriage points past itself.** Every marriage exists to be seen through, not just seen - a living picture of Jesus giving his life for his bride.

Ephesians 5:31-32

• **Don't fight for your marriage alone.** When your marriage is struggling, slow down before it becomes a crisis. Let your pastors and your community in - you were never meant to carry this by yourself.

Galatians 6:2

• **Loving well starts with being loved first.** We can't manufacture sacrificial love on our own. We love our spouse only after we've been loved by Jesus.

1 John 4:19

02 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you about God's design for marriage in Genesis 2:18-25?
2. Is there a person you need to forgive, or a wrong you need to own and confess, before you can move forward?
3. Go on a date this week and talk through the 10 Diagnostic Questions on page 2 together. Which one are you both willing to answer honestly?

03 COMMUNITY GROUP PREP

Before your group meets, take a few minutes with these:

1. Read Genesis 2:18-25 slowly. Notice what God calls "not good," and what he does about it.
2. Marriage is a gift, but it's not ultimately about us. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your marriage right now?
3. Pray through the sermon's three questions: your love for Jesus, your pursuit of your spouse, any bitterness you're carrying.

04 TABLE TALK — CARRY THE CONVO

Don't let the conversation stop at the door.

- What's one thing you've seen modeled - in your family or someone else's - about what a good marriage looks like?
- Why do you think weddings still make people emotional, even strangers at a wedding they don't know well?
- Who's one couple you look up to, and what do you notice about how they treat each other?
- Memory verse this week — read it, say it, learn it together:

We love because he first loved us. — 1 John 4:19

05 PREP FOR SUNDAY

We're continuing our new series called Table Talks: honest conversations about marriage, sex, community, money, and what it looks like to enjoy Jesus in the middle of life.

A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Our Sunday message on August 16 is covering the conversation around sex. We'd encourage parents to use discernment for any kids under the age of 10. This sermon will create great discipleship discussion for your older children.



10 Diagnostic Questions for Marriage

A car's dashboard shows you what's going on before a small issue becomes a big one. These questions work the same way for your marriage. They're not a scorecard, and they're not ammunition for an argument. Start by examining yourself, not your spouse - answer honestly, and ask God to show you one next step.

1. SPIRITUAL HEALTH

How would you describe your spiritual health right now? Healthy marriages start with two people who are enjoying Jesus in Word and prayer.

2. FRIENDSHIP & JOY

Do you genuinely enjoy being together? Is your marriage a place of laughter and refreshment - or does it feel lonely?

3. PRIORITY & PURSUIT

Are you still intentionally pursuing your spouse? Is there anything you're saying "yes" to that you should be saying "no" to, for your marriage's sake?

4. CONFLICT & FORGIVENESS

Are confession and forgiveness normal in your marriage, or are you carrying bitterness or an unresolved wound?

5. HONOR & SAFETY

Does your spouse feel safe being honest, afraid, or uncertain around you - without being mocked or dismissed?

6. GRATITUDE

Do you see your spouse's character and growth, or mostly their faults? Is gratitude or criticism shaping how you speak about them?

7. WHOLE-PERSON INTIMACY

Are you cultivating emotional, spiritual, and physical intimacy - or are there subjects you can't discuss without a fight?

8. PRESENCE & CURIOSITY

Are you still curious about your spouse's inner world, or physically present but relationally absent?

9. SHARED DIRECTION

Are you and your spouse moving the same direction in faith, family, finances, and mission?

10. COMMUNITY & HUMILITY

Do you have healthy Christian friends around your marriage - humble enough to invite counsel before a crisis?

TAKE STEPS TOWARD A HEALTHY MARRIAGE

As a church we are for your marriage, and we go to war for each other in prayer. If today's questions surfaced an area of growth, let's walk together.

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Or scan to get started