

Groups

Marriage on the Rock by Jimmy Evans

Overview: This group is designed for a 10 week semester. Summer groups can combine 2 weeks at a time to fit into the 6 week semester.

Week 1: Foundation & Vision

Chapters 1–2: Finding the Rock & The Secret of a Solid Marriage

Summary:

Jimmy Evans opens with the foundational idea that a successful, lasting marriage must be built on Jesus Christ—the “Rock.” Culture offers unstable models of marriage, but God's design provides clarity, purpose, and strength. Without this solid foundation, couples struggle under the weight of unrealistic expectations and poor communication. Evans stresses the need to center marriage on God from the beginning.

He explains that God's design for marriage includes a divine blueprint with built-in laws that sustain healthy relationships. When we build outside of that design, frustration and conflict are inevitable. But when we follow God's Word, our marriage becomes life-giving and secure. Evans also identifies spiritual unity as a non-negotiable; couples must pursue God individually and together.

Evans challenges couples to examine what their marriage is currently built upon. Are they living for convenience, or covenant? This week sets the tone for the entire study, inviting couples to make a fresh decision to put Christ at the center and let God define the success of their relationship.

This foundation includes mutual submission, sacrificial love, and a willingness to unlearn what the world has taught about relationships. Evans points to Scripture as the standard for truth and health in marriage. When Christ becomes the cornerstone, everything else aligns.

With this new mindset, couples can begin to dream again. They move from surviving marriage to building something sacred and purposeful. Evans offers encouragement: no matter where you start, transformation is possible when God is involved.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it means to build your marriage on the “Rock”?
 2. How has culture shaped your view of marriage—positively or negatively?
 3. In what areas of your relationship do you sense God is not the foundation?
 4. What steps can you take to seek spiritual unity with your spouse?
 5. Why is it important to start with vision and values in a marriage?
 6. What stood out most to you in this week’s reading?
 7. How can Scripture become a more regular part of your relationship?
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Week 2: The Law of Priority

Chapter 3

Summary:

In this chapter, Evans introduces the first foundational law of marriage: the Law of Priority. God designed marriage to operate with clear priorities, and placing your spouse above all others—including children, parents, work, and friends—is essential to lasting love. When priorities are out of alignment, conflict and dissatisfaction emerge.

Evans emphasizes that prioritizing your spouse means more than simply saying they matter—it must be visible through time, energy, and attention. Many couples struggle because they’ve unintentionally let other people or pursuits take first place. Restoring the right order requires intentional choices and consistent investment.

Applying the Law of Priority creates security, trust, and emotional safety in marriage. When your spouse knows they come first, it strengthens connection and lowers defensiveness. This week challenges couples to take a practical look at their schedules, commitments, and energy and ask if they’re truly placing their spouse where they belong.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to make your spouse your top priority?
2. What distractions or obligations tend to interfere with this?

3. How do children or careers sometimes shift our priorities unintentionally?
4. In what ways do you currently show your spouse they come first?
5. What one change could you make this week to better prioritize your marriage?

Week 3: The Law of Pursuit

Chapter 4

Summary:

This chapter explores the second foundational law: the Law of Pursuit. Evans teaches that just as we pursued our spouse during dating, we must continue pursuing them in marriage. Love thrives on effort and intention. Neglecting pursuit leads to emotional distance and complacency.

He explains that pursuit must be active and consistent. It includes verbal affirmation, planning dates, meaningful conversation, and acts of affection. Pursuit isn't about perfection—it's about showing you care through regular actions. Even small gestures matter greatly when done with love.

Evans encourages spouses to keep studying each other. People grow and change over time, and ongoing pursuit helps you stay emotionally connected through every season. The Law of Pursuit reminds couples that love is a verb—it's something you do.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did you pursue your spouse during dating?
2. What forms of pursuit have faded in your relationship over time?
3. Why is it easy to take your spouse for granted once you're married?
4. What simple ways can you begin pursuing your spouse again this week?
5. How can mutual pursuit lead to deeper connection and joy?

Week 4: The Law of Possession & Purity

Chapters 5–6

Summary:

In these chapters, Evans unpacks two powerful laws: Possession and Purity. The Law of Possession teaches that when two people marry, they become one. That means every

area of life—money, time, decisions, and bodies—should be shared. Selfishness creates division; oneness creates intimacy.

Evans challenges couples to evaluate where they are holding back. Many marital issues arise because one or both partners are trying to “own” parts of life instead of fully surrendering to partnership. True possession includes emotional transparency, spiritual unity, and practical cooperation.

The Law of Purity addresses the need for honesty and vulnerability. Evans emphasizes that hidden sin, unresolved offenses, and bitterness pollute a marriage from within. Openness fosters closeness, but secrecy builds walls. Purity isn’t about perfection—it’s about honesty and grace.

Forgiveness becomes a crucial component here. No relationship can thrive without learning to forgive and release past hurts. Purity also means creating an atmosphere where your spouse feels safe to be fully themselves. When both people feel emotionally naked and unashamed, trust deepens.

Together, these laws create an atmosphere of mutual ownership and sacred transparency. As couples embrace full surrender and cultivate a clean, honest environment, the roots of their relationship grow deeper.

Discussion Questions:

1. What areas of your life are hardest to fully share with your spouse?
2. How does selfishness impact unity in a marriage?
3. What does emotional or spiritual purity look like in your relationship?
4. Are there any hidden areas that need to be brought into the light?
5. How does forgiveness keep your marriage emotionally clean?
6. What steps can you take to foster a more transparent and honest connection?
7. How does mutual ownership draw a couple closer together?

Week 5: Biblical Roles & Responsibilities

Chapters 7–9

Summary:

Evans outlines God’s blueprint for marriage by addressing the roles of husbands and wives. He begins by redefining headship and submission in a way that reflects

servanthood, not control. A godly husband is a loving leader, not a dictator. A godly wife is a supportive partner, not a doormat.

He also explores the behaviors of destructive husbands—passive, dominant, distracted, or abusive—and the damage these patterns cause. Similarly, he identifies four types of destructive wives, offering insight into how healing and change can happen.

Understanding and honoring biblical roles requires humility and a willingness to grow. Evans calls men to spiritual leadership, sacrificial love, and consistent presence. He calls women to confidence, encouragement, and active partnership. These roles aren't about power—they're about purpose and design.

Both spouses are equal in value but different in function. When couples embrace their roles without competing or controlling, harmony and unity result. Evans shows that respecting God's order leads to peace, not conflict.

This week offers practical guidance on how to reflect Christ's love and the Church in our roles and how to heal from past relational dysfunction. It's a call to maturity and balance.

Discussion Questions:

1. What have you learned about biblical roles in marriage from this week's chapters?
2. How does culture influence our view of submission and leadership?
3. In what ways can husbands lead with love instead of control?
4. How can wives support without losing their voice or identity?
5. Which destructive traits (in yourself or your spouse) do you want to work on?
6. How do spiritual maturity and emotional health affect your roles?
7. What can you do this week to better reflect Christ in your role?

Week 6: Meeting Each Other's Needs

Chapters 10 & 13

Summary:

This week, Evans highlights the essential emotional needs of both husbands and wives. He explains that while everyone is unique, there are common patterns in the way men

and women experience love and connection. The key is learning your spouse's specific needs and meeting them consistently.

Men tend to need respect, sexual fulfillment, and affirmation, while women often crave security, affection, and open communication. Evans clarifies that these needs are not rooted in stereotypes but in God's intentional design. Ignoring your spouse's needs leads to distance, but intentional care builds intimacy.

He also emphasizes that understanding alone isn't enough—we must act on what we learn. Evans encourages couples to communicate openly about their needs without blame. A thriving marriage happens when both spouses focus on giving rather than demanding.

Meeting needs requires selflessness and intentional effort. When couples create a cycle of meeting one another's needs with joy, emotional closeness deepens, and marital satisfaction grows. It transforms the relationship from transactional to sacrificial.

This week is a call to become a student of your spouse—to listen, learn, and serve. Love grows when needs are honored consistently and freely.

Discussion Questions:

1. What emotional needs do you think are most important to your spouse?
2. What are your top two emotional needs, and how do you feel when they're met?
3. How do gender differences impact how needs are expressed or perceived?
4. What gets in the way of meeting each other's needs consistently?
5. How can you better communicate your needs without criticism?
6. What is one way you can prioritize meeting your spouse's needs this week?
7. How does selflessness influence the health of a marriage?

Week 7: When You're Building Alone

Chapters 11, 12 & 14

Summary:

Sometimes, one spouse is more motivated than the other to grow and improve the relationship. Evans addresses how to build a strong marriage even when it feels like you're doing it alone. He offers encouragement and hope, assuring readers that God honors the obedience of one partner.

Evans acknowledges the pain of being in a spiritually or emotionally imbalanced relationship. It's easy to feel discouraged or resentful. But he reminds us that God sees every effort and blesses the one who chooses to walk in faith, forgiveness, and love even when it's not reciprocated.

The key is to avoid bitterness. Instead of focusing on what your spouse is not doing, focus on what God is calling you to do. Evans explains that change often starts with one person making consistent, Christlike choices. Over time, that faithfulness can soften hearts and spark transformation.

He also provides practical tools: set boundaries when necessary, pray persistently, and seek support from the body of Christ. Don't isolate yourself. God often works through community to sustain and strengthen those building alone.

This week is about perseverance. Even in seasons of disappointment, God can use your faith to bless your marriage and grow your character.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most in this week's reading?
2. Have you ever felt like the only one working on the relationship? How did that feel?
3. What encouragement does Scripture give for those building alone?
4. How can bitterness or resentment take root when efforts are unbalanced?
5. What healthy boundaries might be necessary in your relationship right now?
6. How can prayer shift your heart even when your spouse doesn't change?
7. Who can you turn to for support and encouragement in hard seasons?

Week 8: Building Alone (Part 2)

Chapter 15

Summary:

This chapter expands on the previous week by outlining four principles for building alone. Evans provides wisdom and strategy for those who are committed to honoring their marriage even without mutual effort. These principles bring clarity and stability to a difficult dynamic.

The first principle is to live with hope. Don't assume your current struggles are permanent. God is in the business of transformation. The second is to walk in faith, believing that your obedience is never wasted—even when it feels unseen.

The third principle is to maintain a positive attitude. Negativity is contagious and can drive further division. A hopeful and gracious heart can be a powerful influence. Finally, Evans encourages those building alone to live with integrity. Let your actions reflect Christ no matter what your spouse does.

This week emphasizes consistency. Keep doing the right thing—not because of your spouse's response, but because of your commitment to God and your covenant. God is faithful, and He honors your perseverance.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the four principles for building alone encouraged you most?
2. Why is it so hard to stay hopeful in difficult relationship seasons?
3. How can walking by faith—not feelings—change your daily perspective?
4. What helps you guard your heart against negativity?
5. What does integrity in marriage look like even when your spouse isn't reciprocating?

Week 9: Marriage Skills

Chapters 16–18: Sweet and Sour Pleasure, Skills for Communication, Skills for Financial Success

Summary:

Evans shifts into practical skills that are essential for a thriving marriage. First, he discusses the “sweet and sour” dynamic—how couples can experience incredible joy or deep frustration depending on their habits and communication. Intentionality is the key to staying on the sweet side.

He provides tools for healthy communication, emphasizing listening, validation, and conflict resolution. Good communication isn't just about solving problems—it's about connection. Many couples don't lack love, they lack language.

Next, Evans focuses on money. Financial stress is one of the leading causes of marital conflict. He teaches budgeting, transparency, and stewardship. Couples must learn to view finances as a team effort, not a point of division.

These skills are learned over time, and Evans encourages grace as you grow. No marriage is perfect, but every marriage can improve with consistent, practical application.

Marriage doesn't thrive by accident. These chapters remind us that the daily choices we make shape the long-term health of our relationship.

Discussion Questions:

1. What's one skill you've improved since getting married?
2. How does your communication style help—or hinder—your relationship?
3. What are some practical ways to become a better listener?
4. How do finances create stress or unity in your relationship?
5. What budgeting or stewardship habits could you improve?
6. What's one new skill you want to focus on this week?
7. How does grace make room for growth and change in your marriage?

Week 10: Family & Intimacy

Chapters 19–22: Skills for Parenting, Sexual Pleasure, In-Laws, and Blended Families

Summary:

In the final week, Evans dives into four areas that significantly impact marriage: parenting, intimacy, extended family, and blended family dynamics. These chapters offer practical guidance for navigating these complex and emotionally charged areas.

He encourages couples to parent as a united team, maintaining alignment in discipline, values, and support. Children thrive when they see their parents prioritizing each other and leading with love and consistency.

Evans also speaks frankly about sexual intimacy, calling it a gift from God meant to bond a couple emotionally and physically. He encourages openness, trust, and healing from past wounds to create a fulfilling sexual relationship.

In-laws and blended families bring both blessings and challenges. Boundaries, communication, and grace are essential in these relationships. Evans provides wisdom for creating peace and preserving the primary marital bond.

This final session reminds couples that every area of life can be strengthened by God's wisdom. A Christ-centered marriage doesn't mean perfection—it means consistent pursuit, grace, and unity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has been your biggest takeaway from this study?
2. How has your perspective on parenting as a couple changed?
3. What helps you create emotional and physical intimacy in your relationship?
4. How do in-laws or extended family affect your marriage, positively or negatively?
5. What boundaries could help protect your marriage from outside pressures?
6. What's one commitment you'll carry forward from this study?