



AWESOME

BUILDING GREAT RELATIONSHIPS



AWESOME: Building Great Relationships Study Guide

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDY GUIDE

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

CHECKING IN: You will open each meeting with an opportunity for everyone to check in with each other about how you are doing with the weekly assignments. Accountability is a key to success in this study!

KEY VERSE: Each week you will find a key verse or Scripture passage for your group to read together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

VIDEO LESSON: There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video, and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, that's okay.

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE: This is where the rubber meets the road. We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). These assignments are application exercises that will help you put into practice the truths you have discussed in the lesson.

PRAYER DIRECTION: At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

A Tip for the Host

The study guide material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives. Nor is it necessary to "go around the circle" before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don't insist on it. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don't feel pressured to speak up.

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HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO CURRICULUM

Follow these simple steps for a successful small group meeting:

- Open your group meeting by using the **Checking In** section of your study guide.
- Watch the video lesson together and follow along in the outlines in this study guide. Each video lesson is about 25 minutes long.
- Complete the rest of the discussion materials for each session. Be sure to review the **Putting It Into Practice** section and commit to fulfilling any action steps before your next session.
- Close your time together by following the **Prayer Direction** suggestions.



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FIGHTING FOR AN AWESOME MARRIAGE

CHECKING IN

Think about how marriage is portrayed in today's culture — in TV and movies and popular music, among celebrities, etc.

How has that portrayal influenced how your view marriage?

KEY VERSE

"Marriage should be honored by everyone."

(HEBREWS 13:4a NCV)

► VIDEO OUTLINE

WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

God created it ...

1) FOR THE _____ OF MEN AND WOMEN.

“In God’s plan men and women need each other.”

(1 CORINTHIANS 11:11b TLB)

“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who is right for him.”

(GENESIS 2:18b)

“Jesus said, ‘God’s plan has been seen from the beginning of creation, when he made us male and female. This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united as one body. Now since they are no longer two but one, no one should separate them for God has joined them together.’”

(MARK 10:6-9 NLT)

MARRIAGE IS _____.

MARRIAGE IS _____.

MARRIAGE IS _____.

2) FOR THE _____ OF THE HUMAN RACE.

“So God created people in his own image; He patterned them after himself—creating both male and female with his image. Then God blessed them and commanded them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth!’”

(GENESIS 1:27-28a NLT)

“God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Godly children from your union. So guard the spirit of marriage within you.”

(MALACHI 2:15 MSG)

3) FOR THE _____ OF CHILDREN.

“Those who obey and respect the Lord have a secure fortress; their children will have a place of refuge and security.”

(PROVERBS 14:26)

4) FOR THE _____ OF OUR CHARACTER.

“It’s selfish and stupid to think only of yourself...”

(PROVERBS 18:1a CEV)

THE NUMBER ONE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE IS TO
MAKE ME _____, NOT _____.

5) FOR THE _____ OF SOCIETY.

*“Righteousness lifts up a nation, but sin brings disgrace to
any society.”*

(PROVERBS 14:34 GW)

6) FOR THE _____ OF OUR UNION
WITH CHRIST.

*“Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and
gave himself up for her... He died so that he could give the
church to himself as a bride in all her beauty... In the same
way, husbands should love their wives as they love their own
bodies... No one ever hates his own body, but feeds and takes
care of it. And that is what Christ does for his church, his body.
The Scripture says, ‘a man...is united with his wife, and the
two will become one body.’ This is a profound mystery — but
I am talking about Christ and the church! So each husband
must love his wife as he loves himself, and each wife must
respect her husband.”*

(EPHESIANS 5:25-33)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. One of the ways God uses marriage is for the perfection of our character. Using an example from your own life or the lives of a married couple you know, how have you seen God use marriage to shape character?
2. Mark 10:6-9 makes three radical statements about marriage: It's God's plan; it's between a man and a woman; and it's meant to be permanent. Which of these seems the most counter-cultural based on the way our society views marriage?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Pastor Rick teaches that the number one purpose of marriage is to make us holy, not happy, and that our happiness comes as a byproduct of caring for our spouse first. As you think on your marriage or on the marriage you hope to one day have, what are some ways you can pursue holiness over happiness?

PRAYER DIRECTION

Discuss how your group wants to approach prayer during this six-week study. Encourage everyone to share his or her ideas. Ask if someone has a desire to be a prayer champion for the group, which could include summarizing and sending out prayer requests each week. Talk about other ways to support each other in prayer.