

MAIN POINT

Our culture often views marriage as a contract, not a covenant. Unfortunately, people are often looking for any reason to get out of it, rather than working hard to stay in it. A covenant is a permanent commitment for the benefit of another person, filled with unconditional promises. The cycle of a contract is “If you do this, then I will do this.” Yet our human failures inevitably lead to disappointing the other person. The covenant mentality turns “me” into “we.” When the focus of marriage is on the success of “we” more attention is paid to communicating and listening to one another, serving each other, and becoming one another’s biggest fan. The best foundation for marriage is to be one another’s friend, to believe the best about each other, and to invest in them and your marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [Warm Up Question] What is one contract that you’ve been a part of but didn’t really use (online meal plan, gym, etc.)? Why are contracts easy to get into but hard to get out of?
2. Read Genesis 17: 1-8. What does God’s covenant with Abram involve? How are covenants different from contracts?
3. What does it look like to live as “we” in a relationship rather than “me” in a relationship?
4. What is the hardest part of communication for you? What makes a good listener? How do you feel when someone listens to you?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What is one way that you’ve been more focused on “me” than you have on “we” in a key relationship in your life?
2. Pick one person in your life – how will you believe the best about them this week?
3. What is one way you will invest in your marriage or a key relationship in your life this week?