

# God's Plan for the Family

## Storm Protection: Building Your Family on the Rock

### Part 1: The Unwed State — Preparing Before the Storm

#### Foundation scripture

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##### Matthew 7:24-25 (KJV)

*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

#### Series introduction

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One of the greatest attacks of Satan in our generation is against the family. Homes are collapsing, marriages are failing, children are confused, and many believers are struggling because they have never been taught God's plan for family life.

##### Hosea 4:6 (KJV)

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."*

God did not say His people were destroyed because they lacked **sincerity, good intentions, or love**. He said they were destroyed because they **lacked knowledge**.

A house built without proper instructions will eventually collapse. Likewise, a family built without God's instructions will struggle under life's storms.

The good news is that God has given us His blueprint, **revealed in the Bible**.

**When the purpose of something is not known, misuse is inevitable. We must know the purpose for the family and God's instructions for the family to have loving, lasting, godly families.**

Before God created government, schools, businesses, or churches, He created the **family**.

The **family** is God's first **institution**.

To understand God's plan for marriage and parenting, we must first understand God's purpose for the unwed state.

Many people **want the blessings of marriage** while skipping the **preparation stage**.

#### God's order is:

- Learn God's ways.
- Develop godly character.

- Prepare for covenant.
- Build a strong family.

Before there was a husband, there was a man. Before there was a wife, there was a woman. Before there was a family, there was an individual relationship with God.

A strong family begins with strong, godly individuals.

## **What is the Christian kingdom meaning of family?**

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The family is God's covenant design in which a man and woman are united in marriage and work together to glorify God, raise godly children, and advance His Kingdom.

## **God's original design**

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### **Genesis 1:27-28 (KJV)**

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..."*

### **God's order**

- God created man and woman.
- God blessed them.
- God gave them purpose.
- God commanded fruitfulness and multiplication.

The family was designed to reflect God's image and expand God's influence on earth.

## **Let's begin where we all started: the unwed state**

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### **Whether a person is:**

- Never married
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Engaged
- Waiting on God's timing

They are living in an unwed state.

The world often treats singleness as a problem to solve.

God treats it as a season to prepare.

Many people spend years preparing for a career but very little time preparing for marriage.

Marriage is the second most important decision of life.

## 1. The unwed state is a season of preparation

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### Adam was prepared before Eve was presented

#### Genesis 2:15 (KJV)

*"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."*

#### Before Adam received a wife:

- He knew God.
- He had purpose.
- He had work.
- He had responsibility.

God did not create Eve and then tell Adam to figure out his purpose.  
Purpose preceded partnership.

God's order is preparation before partnership.

#### Faith action step

Ask God to reveal areas where spiritual growth is still needed before pursuing a relationship.

## 2. Your identity must be in Christ, not in a relationship

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Many people seek marriage hoping another person will complete them.  
Only Jesus can complete us.

#### Scripture

#### Colossians 2:10 (KJV)

*"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."*

#### Power point

Marriage is not two incomplete people becoming complete.  
Marriage is two complete people in Christ becoming one flesh.

### You get your identity and affirmation from God

#### When identity depends on another person:

- Jealousy develops.
- Insecurity grows.
- Fear controls relationships.

#### When identity is rooted in Christ:

- Love becomes healthier.
- Relationships become stronger.
- Expectations become realistic.

**Question: How does knowing your identity in Christ prepare you for marriage?**

### **3. Learn self-control before you enter marriage**

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#### **Scripture**

##### **Proverbs 25:28 (KJV)**

*"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."*

Marriage does not fix character problems.

Marriage reveals them.

#### **If a person struggles with:**

- Anger before marriage
- Lust before marriage
- Financial irresponsibility before marriage
- Selfishness before marriage

Marriage often magnifies those issues.

#### **Discussion question**

What character qualities must be developed before marriage?

#### **Faith action step**

Ask the Holy Spirit to identify one area requiring greater self-control.

# Pre-Marital Discipleship Questionnaire

Purpose, preparation, and purity before marriage

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 1: Purpose and identity

Marriage is not simply about finding the right person; it is about becoming the person God has called you to be.

### Key scripture

#### Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."*

### Questions

1. Have you personally accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Yes  No

2. How would you describe your relationship with God?

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3. What do you believe is God's purpose for your life?

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4. What gifts, talents, and abilities has God given you?

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5. How are you currently serving God and others?

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6. What ministry, career, or life goals do you believe God has placed in your heart?

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7. Do you believe marriage will help fulfill God's purpose for your life? Explain.

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8. Are there any personal goals you desire to accomplish before marriage?

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9. What qualities do you believe a godly husband or wife should possess?

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10. What areas of personal growth is God currently working on in your life?

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## Section 2: Spiritual Preparation For Marriage

### Key scripture

**Amos 3:3 (KJV)**

*"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"*

### Questions

1. How often do you pray?

Daily    Weekly    Occasionally

2. How often do you read and study the Bible?

Daily    Weekly    Occasionally

3. Are you actively involved in a local church?

Yes    No

4. Describe your church involvement.

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5. What are your core biblical beliefs?

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6. What role should God have in a marriage?

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7. What role should prayer have in a marriage?

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8. What role should church attendance have in a marriage?

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9. Are there any spiritual habits you need to strengthen before marriage?

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10. Do you have a mentor, pastor, or spiritual leader who speaks into your life?

Yes  No

If yes, who?

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### Section 3: Emotional Preparation

#### Key scripture

**Proverbs 4:23 (KJV)**

*"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*

#### Questions

1. Have you fully healed from previous relationships?

Yes  No

2. Are there any emotional wounds that still affect you?

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3. How do you handle conflict?

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4. How do you respond when you are angry?

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5. Are you willing to forgive quickly?

Yes  No

6. What does healthy communication mean to you?

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7. Are you willing to seek counseling when needed?

Yes  No

8. What fears do you have concerning marriage?

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9. What strengths do you bring into a marriage?

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10. What weaknesses do you need God to help you overcome?

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#### Section 4: Financial Preparation

##### Key scripture

**Luke 14:28 (KJV)**

*"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost..."*

##### Questions

1. Are you currently employed?

Yes  No

2. Do you have a budget?

Yes  No

3. Do you have any significant debt?

Yes  No

4. Are you financially responsible?

Yes  No

5. What are your financial goals?

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6. What is your understanding of biblical stewardship?

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7. Do you tithe and honor God with your finances?

Consistently  Sometimes  Rarely

8. How should financial decisions be made in marriage?

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## Section 5: Purity Before Marriage

### Key scripture

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 (KJV)

*"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour."*

### Questions

1. What does sexual purity mean to you?

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2. Why is purity important before marriage?

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3. Have you made a commitment to sexual purity?

Yes    No

4. Are there any areas where you struggle with temptation?

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5. What boundaries have you established in dating relationships?

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6. Do you believe living together before marriage honors God's design?

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7. Why or why not?

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8. How do you guard your heart and mind against sexual temptation?

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9. Are there any soul ties, past relationships, or sinful habits that need healing and freedom?

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10. Have you experienced God's forgiveness and cleansing in areas of sexual sin?

Yes    No

11. What practical steps can you take to maintain purity until marriage?

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## Section 6: Marriage Expectations

### Key scripture

#### Ephesians 5:21 (KJV)

*"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."*

### Questions

1. Why do you want to get married?

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2. What do you expect from your future spouse?

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3. What do you believe your future spouse should expect from you?

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4. What does unconditional love mean to you?

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5. How should disagreements be handled?

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6. What role should children have in your future plans?

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7. What role should extended family have in your marriage?

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8. What does a successful marriage look like to you?

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### Personal commitment

After prayerfully completing this questionnaire, I commit to pursuing God's purpose, preparing myself spiritually and emotionally, and maintaining purity before marriage.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor/counselor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 6:33 (KJV)**

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*