



## bigIdea

It is easy to fall in love—all you need is a pulse! But wow do you stay in love? Because it has never been easier to fall in love and get married, but it has never been harder to stay in love and stay married. The key is keeping your marriage relationship the number one priority over every other relationship.



**BIG IDEA:** Make your marriage a priority over all other relationships.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 2:18-24.

1. God giving Adam a wife happened immediately after he named all of the animals. What do you think God was trying to teach Adam during this time?
2. Everything God made up to this point He said, “It is good.” Why do you think God says in Genesis 2:18, “It is not good?”
3. At this point, was Adam looking for a wife? Look at the verbs that God is doing in Genesis 2:21-22. Whose idea was marriage?
4. In Genesis 2:24, God says that, “a man should leave his father and mother and join (cleave) to his wife.”
5. Have you ever seen a couple that never really left their home of their parents, either emotionally, financially, or relationally? Describe their relationship with their spouse. Do you think their relationship with their spouse is hindered or helped by their never really leaving?

Read Ephesians 5:18-6:5

6. What is unusual about the way Paul applies the general principle of verse 21 specifically to wives (verses 23-24)?
7. How and why does he address husbands the way he does (verses 25-33)?
8. In your words, how would you describe the goal of a Christian marriage (verse 31)?
9. Have you ever heard a couple say, “I am in it for the kids,” or “I am committed to the kids.” Why is this dangerous?
10. Have you ever found yourself saying, “We’ll have time for one another when our children are grown. Right now, it’s all about the kids”? How can you change your schedule to better prioritize your marriage relationship?
11. God’s order is: *God, spouse, children, job*. *God, spouse, children, job*. How does the world turn that upside down? Is God’s priority list upside down in your family?

### THINK ABOUT IT

What the children need more than anything is a mom and a dad who are first committed to be husband and wife, who are willing to take time to date each other, listen to each other, and fight and protect to keep the spark alive. If you make your kids a priority over your spouse, it is the children who get hurt when the marriage fails. But if you place your spouse first and invest time and energy into the marriage relationship, the children are in a family that is stable and secure.

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Go on a date with your spouse and tell them how valuable they are to you. If your spouse is not here, write them a letter communicating the importance of your relationship with them.

### VERSES TO GO DEEPER

Genesis 1, Genesis 2, Genesis 3; Ephesians 5:18-6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-4:2; 1 Peter 3:1-7

