

Navigating Marriage God's Way

Love IRL

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OPENING QUESTION

“When you think about marriage (your own, your parents’, or culture’s picture of it), would you say it’s usually more ‘me-centered’ or ‘Jesus-centered’? What makes you say that?”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Main Reading:

Genesis 2:18-24

Extra Reading:

Genesis 1:28

Ephesians 5:31-32

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Marriage falls apart when it revolves around you, but it thrives when it revolves around Christ.
- Your spouse is meant to complement you, not complete you—only Jesus can make you whole.
- Marriage is a covenant of “no matter what,” not a contract of “as long as you.”
- Sex is a God-given gift designed for the safety and joy of a covenant marriage, not casual use.
- A Jesus-centered marriage lives on mission together so that people see the gospel, not just a couple in love.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have you expected a spouse (or future spouse) to do for you what only Jesus can do—complete me, heal me, or define me?
 - a. What is one practical step I can take this week to seek those needs from Jesus instead (prayer, Scripture, community, counseling, etc.)?
2. Does your view of marriage look more like a contract (“as long as you...”) or a covenant (“no matter what”), and how is that showing up in your attitudes or behavior?
 - a. Where is one specific place I need to shift from “as long as you” to “no matter

- what” in how I love and serve?
3. What specific mission or purpose is God calling you (and, if married, us) to live out together that shows people the love and power of the gospel?
 - a. What is one actionable way you can start living out that mission this month—something simple and realistic?

PRACTICE

Center and Serve

Center (Personal/Prayer):

At least 3 times this week, spend 10 minutes asking Jesus:

“Where have I made marriage/romance about me instead of you?”

“How do you want to reshape my heart for covenant love?”

Write down one thing He highlights and bring it to next group.

Serve (Practical/Relational):

If you’re married: choose one specific, tangible act of service for your spouse each day this week that they didn’t ask for (e.g., a chore they hate, a kind note, initiating prayer, planning a simple date, giving them a break from the kids).

If you’re single: do the same for someone God has placed in your life (roommate, family member, friend, coworker)—serve them in a way that costs you time or comfort.

Reflect (Next meeting):

Come ready to share:

What was hard about this?

What did you notice in your own heart?

Did anything in the relationship shift, even slightly?

This keeps the focus on Jesus at the center, covenant-type love, and living as a team on mission—very aligned with the sermon.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for being the only One who can truly complete and transform us. Help us to build relationships and marriages that are centered on You, marked by covenant love, humility, and mission. Send us out this week to love, serve, and forgive like You, so that others would see Your gospel through our lives.