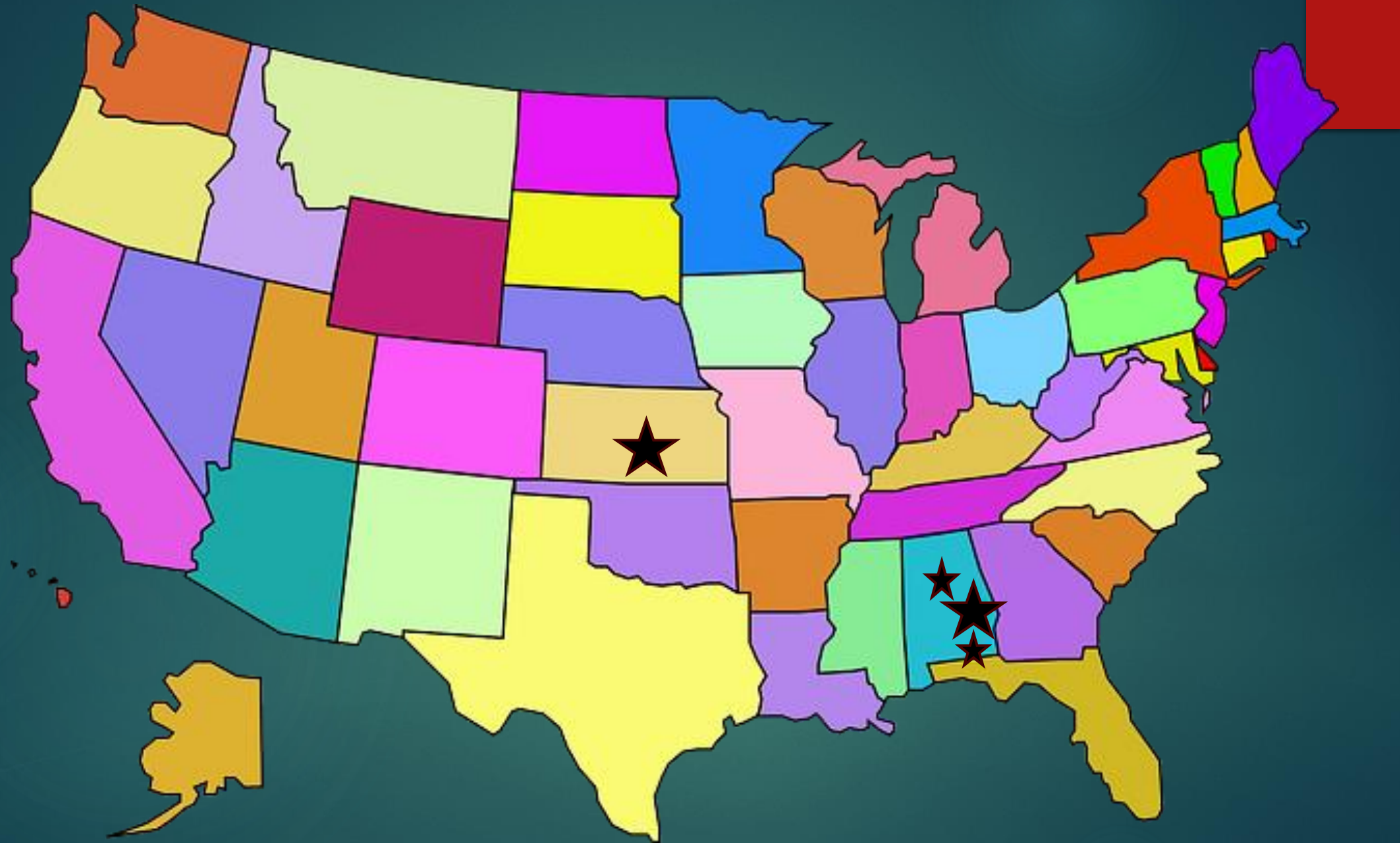
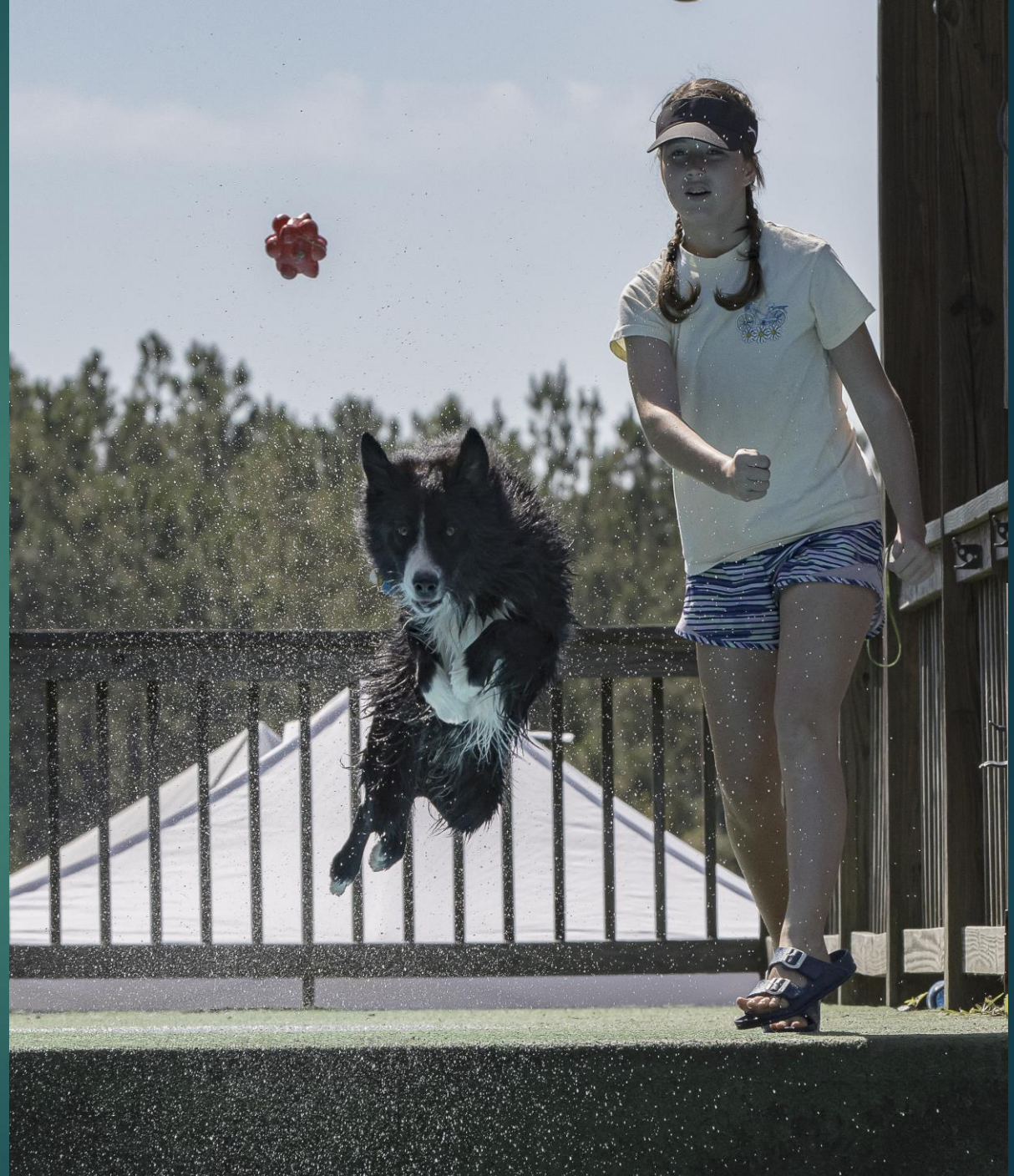


Diagnosis and management of a healthy marriage: Where is the “happily ever after?”



Robyn Wilborn, DVM, MS, DACT





Objectives:

1. Identify barriers in our mindset related to what marriage should look like
2. Free your spouse from the burden of your expectations
3. Reflect on the fact that our marriage is always an example for others...either for good or for bad



What should
marriage look
like?

- ▶ What should your trip to Disney look like??

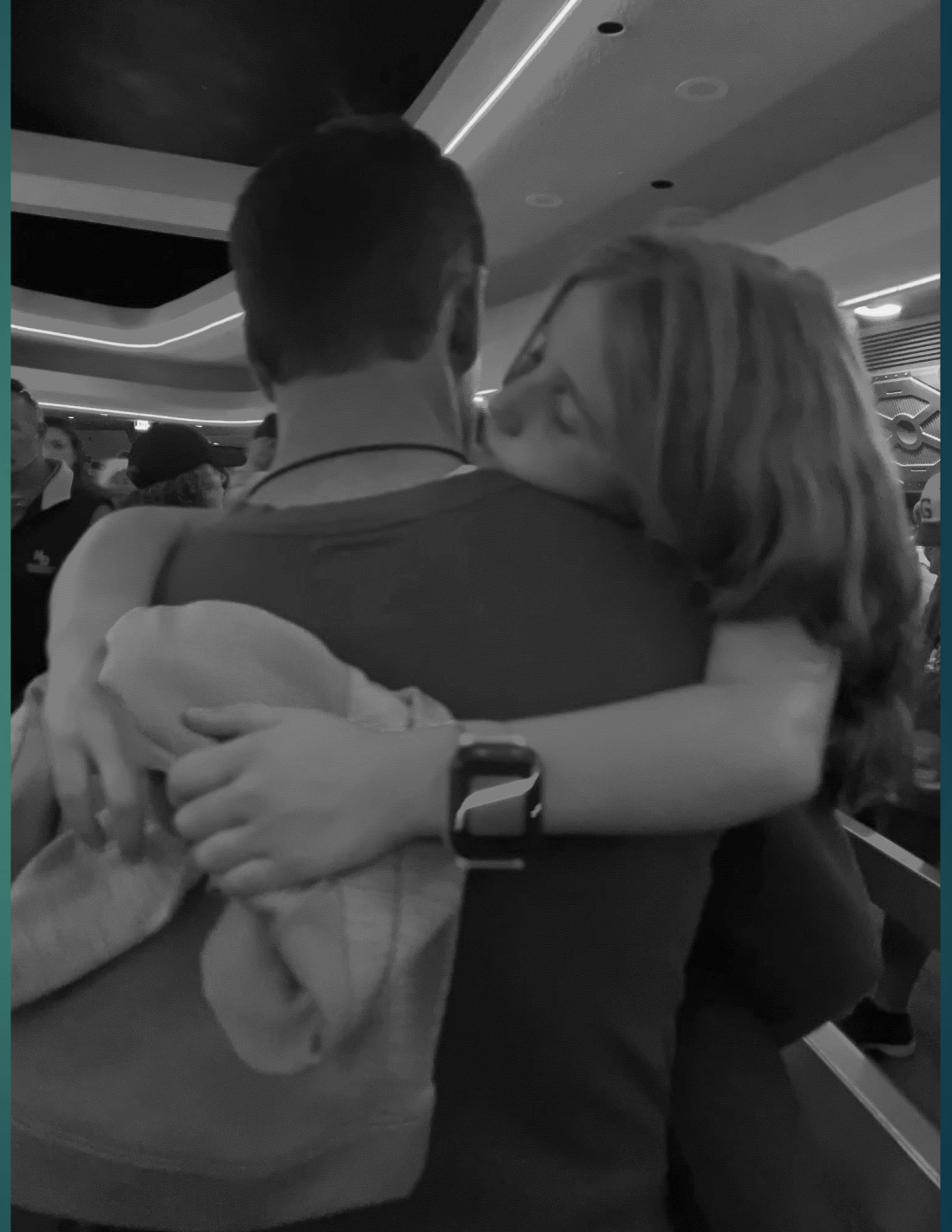


This!





Not
this



SPACE MOUNTAIN

Space Mountain is a thrilling high-speed, turbulent roller coaster-type ride in the dark that includes sharp turns, sudden drops and stops.



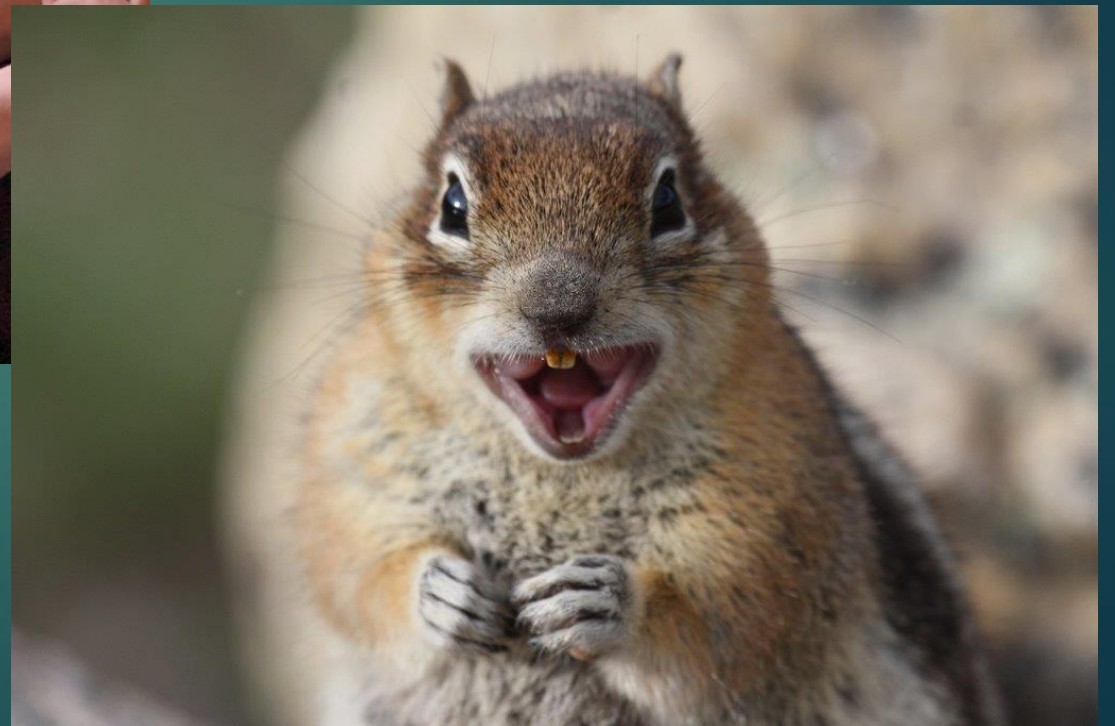
WARNING!

For safety, you should be in good health and free from high blood pressure, heart, back or neck problems, motion sickness, or other conditions that could be aggravated by this adventure.





The
unexpected...



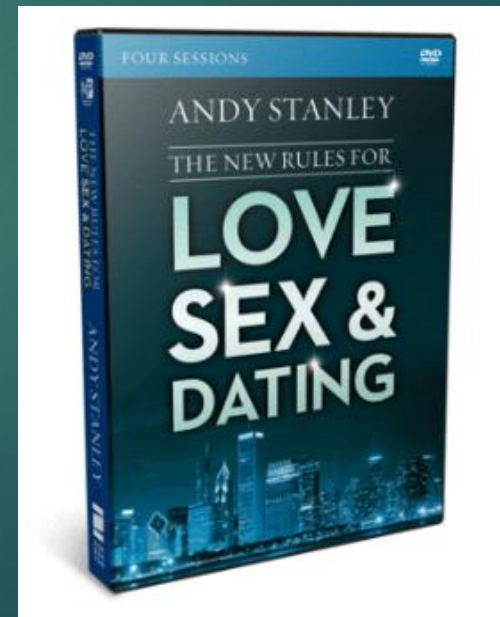
YOUR MOVE
WITH ANDY STANLEY

Better Decisions.
Fewer Regrets.

Andy Stanley

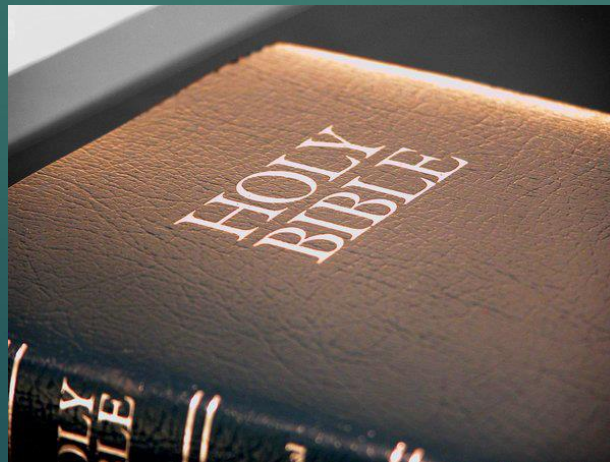
-Northpoint Ministries

-Northpoint.org



The right person myth (Andy Stanley)

- ▶ Once you find the right person, everything will be ok
- ▶ “Just thinkin' we'll be fixed by someone else”
 - ▶ Kacey Musgraves 🎵
- ▶ Once you learn all of the Bible verses on marriage, money, etc, everything will be ok



The right person myth (Andy Stanley)

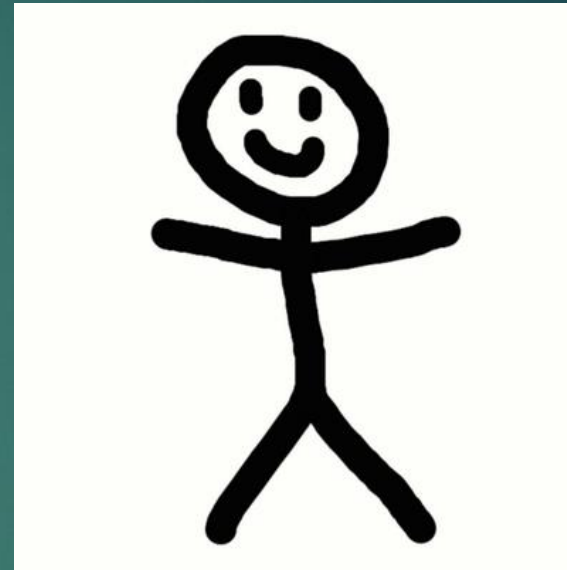
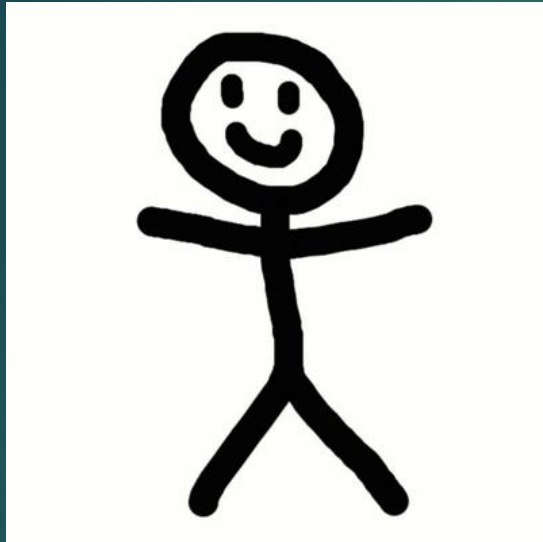
- ▶ “God, did I marry the wrong person??”
- ▶ Rather than looking for the right person...focus on becoming the right person.

-A.S.



Are you the person

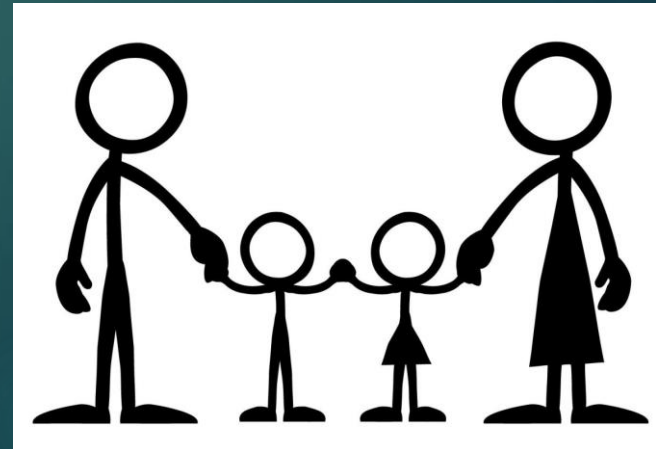
that the person
you're looking for



is looking for?

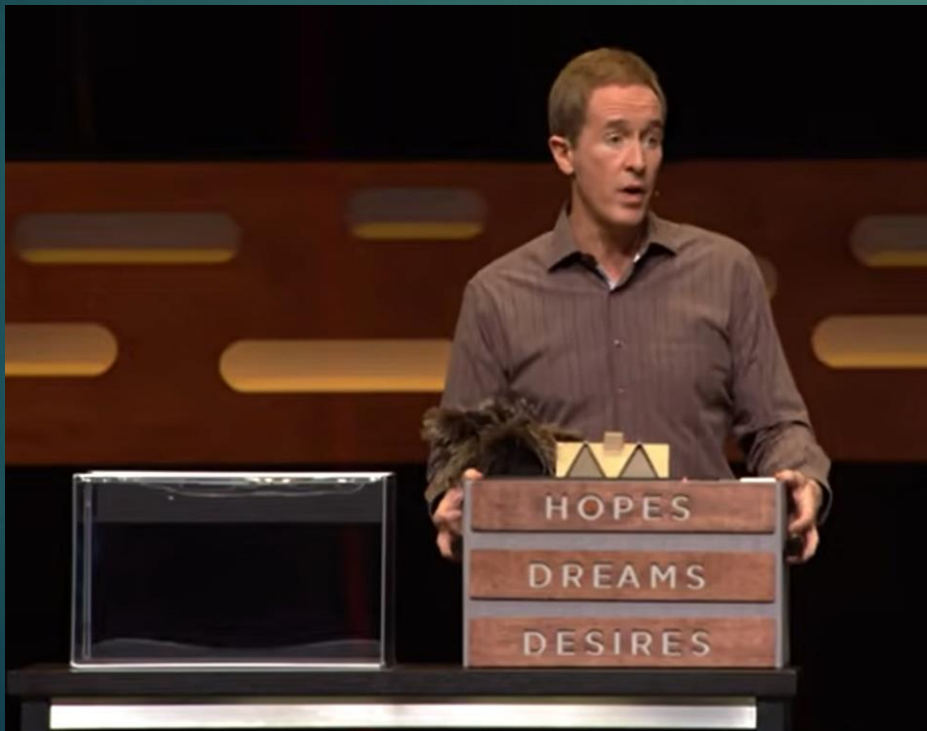
What type of person are you currently attracting??

Freeing your spouse from
the burden of your
expectations

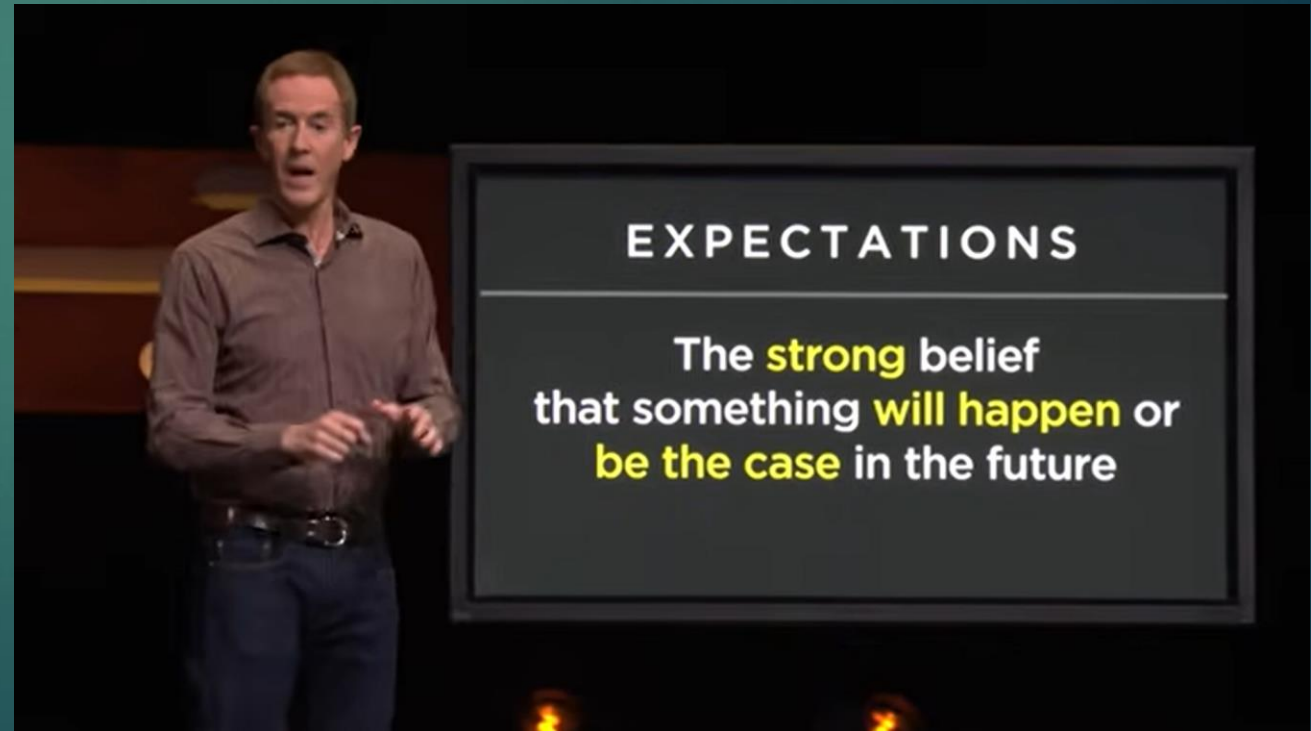


Hopes, dreams, desires...

- ▶ Trying to avoid something
- ▶ Trying to re-create something

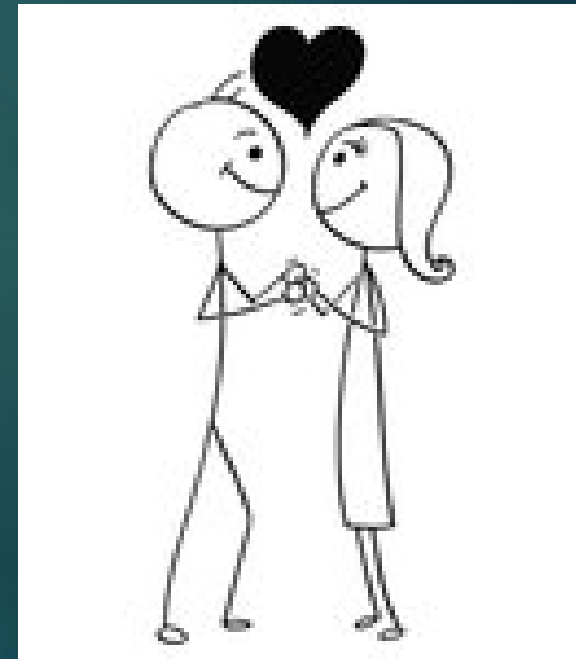


❖ Homework assignment, a responsibility



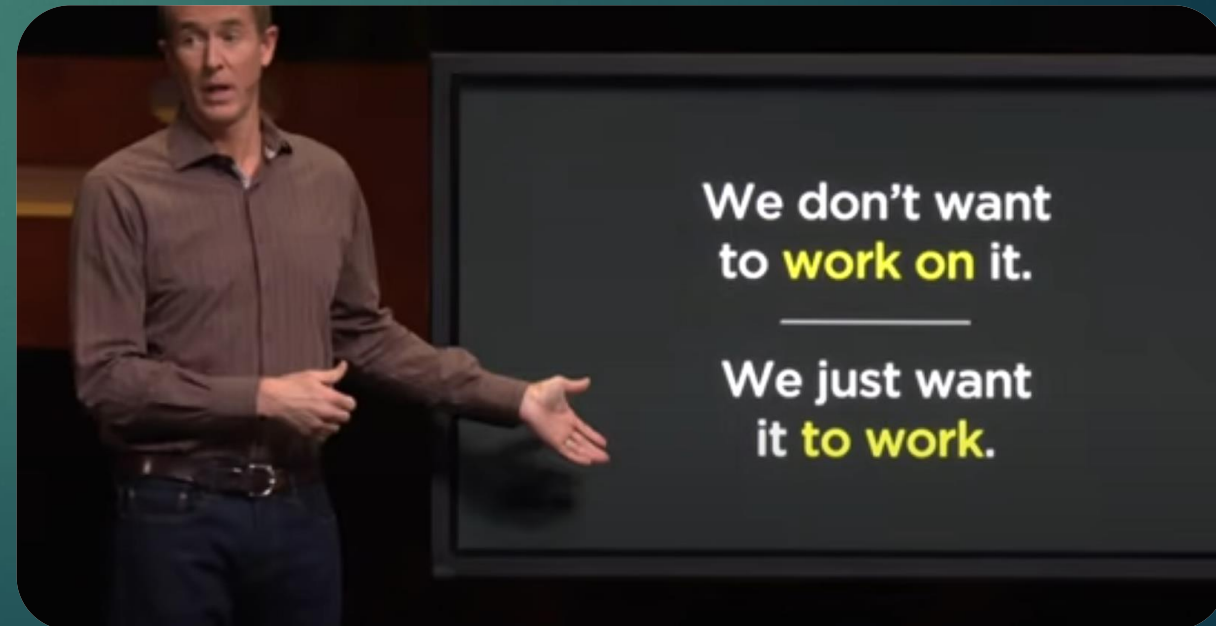
Freeing your spouse from the burden of your expectations...


- ▶ Speak it...
 - ▶ Don't assume that they know
 - ▶ Own it...
 - ▶ It's not their burden to shoulder your dreams
 - ▶ How???
- ▶ Marriage retreats
 - ▶ Date nights...even on the back porch
 - ▶ Counseling



Other ways to “work on” your marriage...

- Sunday school or small groups
- Hosting college/young adult Bible studies at your home
 - KIDS!!!!
- Hosting a neighbor for dinner
 - Seriously



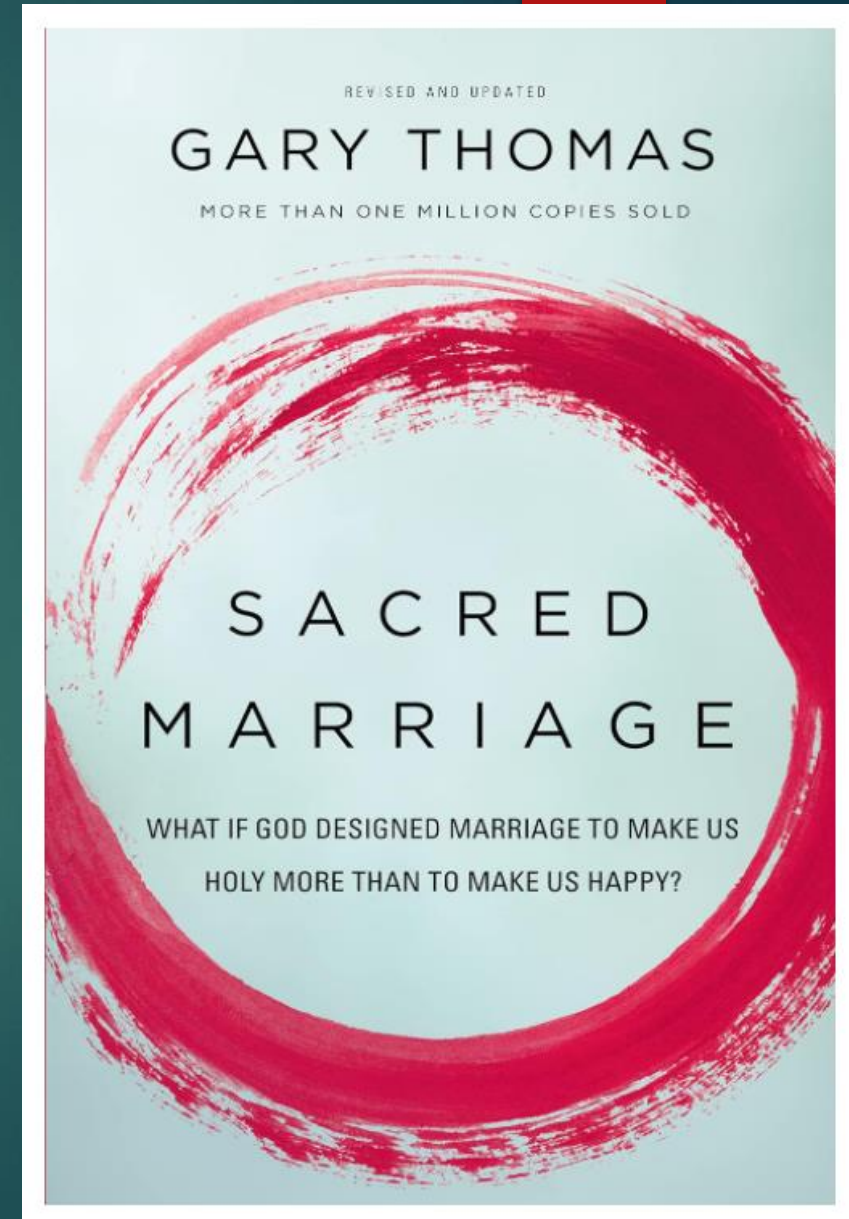


Our marriage is always an
example for others...either for
good or for bad

A trip to the library...



- ▶ What about arranged marriages?
- ▶ What is our expectation based upon???



What if God designed marriage to make us HOLY more than to make us HAPPY?

- ▶ “...building a relationship that models forgiveness, selfless love, and sacrifice.”
- ▶ “One of the reasons I am determined to keep my marriage together is not because doing so will make me happier (although I believe it will)...it is because it is my Christian duty.”
- ▶ “How can I tell my children that God’s promise of reconciliation is secure when they see that my own promise doesn’t mean a thing? (if I give up on it)”
- ▶ “We can’t carry a message well if we don’t live it first.”

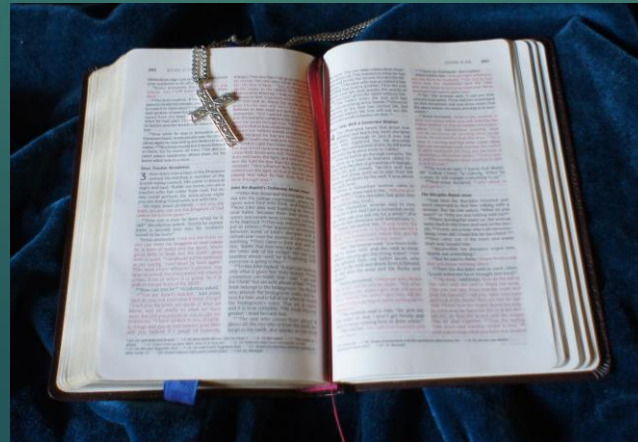
When lightning strikes...

- ▶ “The Washington forests are so wet that lightning strikes cause relatively few fires.”
- ▶ Traditional forest: Fire q. ~50-60 yrs
- ▶ **Cascades: Fire q. ~200 yrs**
- ▶ “Trees have a much longer time to take root and grow.” ♥
- ▶ ***“Just sticking it out is a victory in and of itself.”***



Example – for good!

- ▶ You ARE an example
- ▶ Don't shy away from giving counsel...even when you feel like you couldn't or shouldn't
- ▶ “Christians can command attention just by staying married.” ♥



**Be self controlled
and alert**

your enemy the devil prowls
around like a roaring lion
looking for someone to devour

**Resist him
standing firm in the faith**

1 peter 5:8-9



Top things that destroy marriages?

- ▶ What will be your biggest threat from the enemy?
- ▶ Will you see it coming?
- ▶ How can you stay connected?
- ▶ How are you an example?

