

SESSION TWO

Chicken
or Egg



*What therefore God has joined together,
let not man separate.*

MARK 10:9

Welcome once again to Flourishing Family. In our previous session, we delved into the essential foundation of Jesus Christ for building our families. Continuing our exploration of creating thriving families, our focus shifts this week to addressing the delicate balance between nurturing our marriages and navigating the responsibilities of parenthood. We know that the well-being of the parents contributes directly to well-being of our children. It can't be overstated that the health of the marriage is vital to this.

Pastor Ben will guide us through a look at Genesis, uncovering God's original blueprint for a Flourishing Family. This session is designed to spark authentic sharing as you openly discuss your personal challenges within your small group. Remember to consult the supplementary resources provided in this group guidebook and persist in championing your family's welfare throughout the week!







coming together

During each session, we will begin with a question or brief activity designed to “put us on the same page” for the session.

- So which do you think came first in creation, the chicken, or the egg?
- Tell us about something sweet or funny that happened at your wedding ceremony.



Learning Together

WATCH THE VIDEO



growing together

In the questions that follow, you will review and expand on the teaching you just experienced.

- What stands out to you from “the first wedding ceremony” in Genesis 2?
- What were your first months or years like in marriage?
- How did your marriage relationship change (for better or worse) when you had kid(s)?
- What is/was your parent’s marriage relationship like?



- Of Ben's TIME acronym (Time, Intimacy, Make it Known, Expectations), which do you find to be the most challenging in your marriage relationship?
- What habits and rhythms do you have in place to keep prioritizing a health marriage while bust parenting?

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

- Sexual intimacy is extremely important for a healthy marriage. In what ways does sexual impurity, such as looking at pornography, hurt marital intimacy?

going deeper

If there is time, and you feel God nudging you to go deeper, take some time in group or by yourself before the next meeting to dig further into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own and jot your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. A great way to gain insight on a passage is to read it in several different translations. You may want to use a Bible app or website to compare translations.

In Ephesians 5:31-33 (ESV) it says,

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- What do you think is meant by “hold fast to his wife”? What might be some practical ways to hold fast to one another?
- Do you think it makes a difference that the husband is to love his wife, and the wife is to respect her husband? Why or why not?

resources

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

BOOKS

“Making Your Marriage a Fortress”, “Married Sex”
and “Sacred Marriage” by Gary Thomas

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

“A Lifelong Love” by Gary Thomas

PODCAST

Gary Thomas on FamilyLife

<https://www.familylife.com/podcast/guest/gary-thomas/>



daily



Read and reflect on the following Scriptures between group meetings. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear God's direction.

Day 1

Hebrews 13:4

"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

Reflect:

Do you think marriage is held in honor among all in today's culture? How does that effect your own view of marriage?

Day 2

Proverbs 18:22

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord."

Reflect:

Do you see your spouse as a sign of God's favor? How can you be a sign of God's favor for your spouse?

reflections

Day 3

Matthew 19:9

“And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Reflect:

Why do you think Jesus said this, and what do you think He meant by it?

Day 4

Malachi 2:14

“But you say, ‘Why does he not?’ Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”

Reflect:

What does Malachi mean by the word, “covenant”? Where else do we see covenants in the Bible?

Day 5

Deuteronomy 24:5

“When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.”

Reflect:

Why do you think God gave the Israelites this provision? How could it be applied today, even to those not going to the army?