

Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



Key Takeaways:

1. Everyone enters marriage with a "bin" of expectations, some known and some hidden.
2. It's crucial to communicate expectations with your spouse rather than keeping them hidden.
3. There are three types of expectations in marriage: realistic, negotiable, and unrealistic/unhealthy.
4. Healthy marriages require flexibility, negotiation, and letting go of unrealistic/unhealthy expectations.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of the expectations you had about marriage before you got married (or have now if you're single)? How have those expectations evolved over time?
2. Pastor Ike mentioned several areas where couples often have expectations (e.g., schedules, finances, household duties). Which of these areas do you find most challenging to navigate in your own relationship?
3. How do you typically handle it when your expectations aren't met in your relationship? What could you do differently?
4. Discuss the concept of "negotiable expectations." Can you share an example from your own relationship where you had to negotiate and find a compromise?
5. The sermon emphasized that in negotiations, the marriage should win, not an individual. How can couples practically apply this principle?

6. What are some unrealistic or unhealthy expectations you've observed in relationships (your own or others)? How can these be addressed?
7. How can single individuals prepare themselves for healthy expectations in future relationships?

Practical Applications:

1. Complete the expectation worksheet provided after the sermon (attached below). If married, do this individually and then discuss with your spouse. If single, reflect on your expectations for a future relationship.
2. Choose one area of your relationship where expectations haven't been clearly communicated. Commit to having an open, honest conversation about it this week.
3. Identify any unrealistic expectations you may be holding onto. Pray and reflect on how to let these go or adjust them to be more realistic.
4. Practice the art of negotiation in your daily life. Look for opportunities to find win-win solutions rather than having a "winner" and "loser."
5. For singles: Write a letter to your future spouse about your expectations. Keep it as a reference to revisit and revise as you grow.

Marriage Expectations

Expectations of a happy marriage:

Expectations of yourself:

Expectations of your spouse: