

## Talk it Over: Atypical, Week 4

**March 12-13, 2022**

**Looking back at the message this weekend, what was the key thought for you?**

### Key Scripture

Genesis 2: 18-24  
Matthew 22: 36-37

### Key Thoughts

Marriage is always about We and not Me!

A contract is based on mutual distrust.

A covenant is based on mutual commitment.

### Start Talking

To kick off this week's discussion, ask your small group to think back over the sermon, "Atypical" and share one thing that stood out to them to get the conversation going.

### Start Thinking

1. Troy starts the sermon off again saying "typical isn't working!" This week, we are focusing on what 'atypical' looks like in marriage. What seems to be 'typical' for marriage in our context?
2. What is the difference between a 'contract' vs 'covenant'? (See key points above) How could this perspective change how we view our marriages/ marriage in general?
3. For followers of Jesus, what are some things that make our marriages

seem 'atypical'? What are some ways that we are called to be in marriage differently than our culture teaches?

4. Marriage is a covenant, which means it isn't simply "you and me," but covenant invites God to give us help, guidance, and supernatural power. It is with God's help that we can commit to a lifetime of faithfulness and selfless love of another person. Take a minute to reflect & share: are there areas of your life or marriage where you need God's help & supernatural power? If you are comfortable, share with your group.

### Start Sharing

This week, Troy challenges us: "your life is centered around something." He showed a diagram that illustrates our actions, beliefs & values are centered on something, impacting how we live in every way. As followers of Jesus, we want to move toward a "Christ-Centered" life & marriage.

For those who are married in the group, take some time to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to highlight one specific way that you and your spouse can move toward centering your marriage and life around Jesus.

For those that are unmarried, take some time to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to highlight one specific way that you can move toward centering your life around Jesus.

### Start Doing

In Matthew 18:19, Jesus says, "when any two agree about something, my father in heaven will do it for you." There is power



in unified prayer together. It connects us, it heals the cracks that form in our relationships, and softens our hearts. This week, we want to challenge you:

For Married Folks:

... to pray with your spouse every day.

For Unmarried Folks:

... to pray every day.

If this is new to you or intimidating, Troy gave us 3 tips for this prayer &

1. Keep it short.
2. Keep it consistent.
3. Keep it simple.

Try praying this simple prayer every day (either with your spouse or by yourself):

Married:

'Dear God, give us wisdom in all we do today. Keep us close to you and away from temptation. We ask for your provision and protection over our family. Help us to show your love to each other and to shine your light into this world.'

Single:

'Dear God, give me wisdom in all I do today. Keep me close to you and away from temptation. I ask for your provision and protection over my life and community. Help me to show your love to all who I meet today and to shine your light into this world.'