

Leader Conversation Guide – Most Requested: Marriage

Main Idea

A healthy, God-honoring marriage begins with a strong relationship with God. When two people commit to following Jesus, they build their marriage on an identity and purpose that go beyond their feelings or circumstances. God calls husbands and wives to move in the same direction, trusting Him to strengthen the relationship through every season.

In this week's message, we were reminded that a godly marriage takes intentional commitment. We must take responsibility for our relationship with God, learn contentment in Him, serve our spouse through everyday acts of sacrifice, and remember that our spouse is our teammate, not our savior. As we begin our discussion, let's ask God to show us how we can become more faithful, selfless, and committed in the relationships He has entrusted to us.

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

MARK 10:9

Make it Practical:

Take responsibility for your relationship with God.

- Your marriage is strengthened when your identity is established in Christ.
- Take ownership of your spiritual growth and how you respond to adversity.
- Remember that you are responsible, but you are not alone.
- Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:11

Learn to be content in God.

- Don't expect your spouse or your circumstances to provide the fulfillment only God can give.
- Practice gratitude and trust God to meet your needs.
- Contentment in Him helps you approach marriage with healthier expectations.
- Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6–8

Choose commitment and sacrifice over feelings.

- Mature love shows up in everyday actions, even when you don't feel like it.
- Serve your spouse in practical ways, even when the task seems small.
- Treat your spouse as your teammate, not your savior.
- Scripture: Ephesians 5:25

Talk About It

This week's message emphasized that the identity of your team must be established through your identity in Christ. How does your relationship with God influence the way you approach your closest relationships?

When you experience disappointment or conflict in a relationship, what is your typical response? What would it look like to respond with greater maturity and commitment rather than simply following your feelings?

The message reminded us that our spouse is our teammate, not our savior. Why can unrealistic expectations create disappointment in relationships, and how can we learn to extend grace to others?

Marriage is not transactional, it is sacrificial.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the relationships You have entrusted to us. Help us build our lives on our identity in You, grow in contentment, and love others with patience and sacrifice. Show us where we need to take responsibility, let go of unrealistic expectations, and serve with humility. Strengthen our relationships and help us reflect the love of Jesus in the way we treat one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Steps

1. Invest in your relationship with God. Set aside intentional time this week for prayer and Scripture, asking God to shape your identity, priorities, and relationships.

2. Practice contentment. Identify one expectation or frustration you have been carrying. Bring it to God and write down three things you are grateful for rather than focusing on what is missing.

3. Serve without keeping score. Choose one practical way to serve your spouse or someone close to you this week. Do it willingly, without expecting something in return.