

BELOVED DISCIPLES LEARNING COURSES

MARRIAGE

Quick Resources to Watch:

- Pastor Kevin's sermon, "WEDDING PICTURES"
<https://youtu.be/-kfMOe5m6Qg?si=f3gXP3QwrsJvJ9mh>
- Matt Chandler's sermon series, "This Profound Mystery"
 - "In the Beginning"
<https://youtu.be/5LUvHJqaegs?si=kmXVPG9TdAys3fbF>
 - "Husbands and Wives"
<https://youtu.be/zSfuthNpVRw?si=Fxt1YPO7maBFPSnM>
 - "Sex and Intimacy"
<https://youtu.be/jljLkeK-5VM?si=tWtfc5qzIJmSylox>
 - "Fighting Fair"
<https://youtu.be/x0EyhoCJZag?si=4XBJts2W51Qu93TK>
 - "Legacy"
https://youtu.be/eOObj1_T00U?si=qIKow8JdncmrcPpl

Quick Resources to Read:

- "Temptations Common to Marriage," by Bobby Scott
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/temptations-common-to-marriage>
- "The Story of Marriage in Seven Verses," by David Mathis
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-story-of-marriage-in-seven-verses>

Recommended In-Depth Readings:

- "The Meaning of Marriage," by Timothy Keller
<https://www.amazon.com/Meaning-Marriage-Facing-Complexities-Commitment/dp/1594631875/>
- "Single, Dating, Engaged, Married," by Ben Stuart
<https://www.amazon.com/Single-Dating-Engaged-Married-Navigating/dp/0718097890/>



“The Meaning of Marriage,” by Timothy Keller

Reading Discussion Guide

Introduction

1. Reflection Question: What are your initial thoughts on the title "The Meaning of Marriage"? How do you think this book might challenge or affirm your current views on marriage?
2. Reflection Question: What motivated you to read this book? What do you hope to gain from it?

Chapter 1: The Secret of Marriage

1. Reflection Question: What does Keller mean by "the secret of marriage"?
2. Reflection Question: How does this chapter change or reinforce your understanding of the purpose of marriage?

Chapter 2: The Power for Marriage

1. Reflection Question: How does Keller describe the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering marriage?
2. Reflection Question: What practical steps can you take to invite the Holy Spirit into your relationship?

Chapter 3: The Essence of Marriage

1. Reflection Question: According to Keller, what is the essence of marriage?
2. Reflection Question: How does this understanding of marriage contrast with contemporary cultural views?

Chapter 4: The Mission of Marriage

1. Reflection Question: What does Keller identify as the mission of marriage?
2. Reflection Question: How can you align your marriage (or future marriage) with this mission?

Chapter 5: Loving the Stranger

1. Reflection Question: What does it mean to "love the stranger" in the context of marriage?
2. Reflection Question: How can you apply this concept to your current or future relationship?



Chapter 6: Embracing the Other

1. Reflection Question: How does Keller define "embracing the other"?
2. Reflection Question: What challenges do you anticipate in embracing differences in your relationship, and how can you overcome them?

Chapter 7: Singleness and Marriage

1. Reflection Question: How does Keller address the relationship between singleness and marriage?
2. Reflection Question: What insights did you gain about singleness from this chapter, and how might they apply to your current life situation?

Chapter 8: Sex and Marriage

1. Reflection Question: What role does Keller attribute to sex within marriage?
2. Reflection Question: How does this chapter influence your understanding of sexual intimacy in marriage?

Chapter 9: The Seasons of Marriage

1. Reflection Question: How does Keller describe the different seasons of marriage?
2. Reflection Question: In which season do you currently find yourself, and what advice from this chapter resonates most with you?

Conclusion

1. Reflection Question: Reflect on your overall experience reading the book. What are the most impactful lessons you've learned?
2. Reflection Question: How will you apply the insights and principles from this book to your current or future marriage?

Personal Reflection:

- Reflection Question: Write a personal reflection on how this book has challenged or changed your views on marriage.
- Reflection Question: Identify one or two key takeaways that you will implement in your relationship.

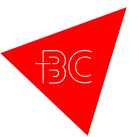
Group Discussion:

1. Reflection Question: What was the most surprising or enlightening part of the book for you?
2. Reflection Question: How can we support each other in applying the principles discussed in this book to our marriages or future marriages?



Prayer and Commitment:

1. Reflection Question: Spend some time in prayer, asking for guidance and strength to apply the teachings of this book to your life.
2. Reflection Question: Consider making a commitment to regularly review and discuss the principles from this book with your spouse or a trusted group of friends.



“Single, Dating, Engaged, Married,” by Ben Stuart

Reading Discussion Guide

Introduction

1. Reflection Question: What are your initial thoughts on the title "Single, Dating, Engaged, Married"? How do you think this book might address the different stages of relationships?
2. Reflection Question: What motivated you to read this book? What do you hope to learn or achieve by the end?

Part 1: Single

Chapter 1: The Season of Singleness

1. Reflection Question: How does Stuart describe the purpose and potential of singleness?
2. Reflection Question: What are some advantages of being single that you hadn't considered before?

Chapter 2: Maximizing Your Single Years

1. Reflection Question: What practical steps does Stuart suggest for making the most of your single years?
2. Reflection Question: How can you apply these suggestions to your current life situation?

Part 2: Dating

Chapter 3: The Purpose of Dating

1. Reflection Question: How does Stuart define the purpose of dating?
2. Reflection Question: How does this perspective on dating align with or challenge your current views?

Chapter 4: Navigating the Dating Process

1. Reflection Question: What guidelines does Stuart offer for healthy dating practices?
2. Reflection Question: What dating challenges have you faced, and how can Stuart's advice help you navigate them?

Part 3: Engaged

Chapter 5: Preparing for Marriage

1. Reflection Question: How does Stuart suggest couples prepare for marriage during the engagement period?



2. Reflection Question: What practical steps can you take to prepare for a successful marriage?

Chapter 6: Addressing Common Issues

1. Reflection Question: What common issues does Stuart highlight that couples should address before marriage?
2. Reflection Question: How can you proactively address these issues in your relationship?

Part 4: Married

Chapter 7: The Foundation of Marriage

1. Reflection Question: According to Stuart, what should be the foundation of a strong marriage?
2. Reflection Question: How can you strengthen this foundation in your current or future marriage?

Chapter 8: Sustaining a Healthy Marriage

1. Reflection Question: What practical advice does Stuart give for maintaining a healthy and fulfilling marriage?
2. Reflection Question: What specific actions can you take to apply this advice in your marriage?

Conclusion

1. Reflection Question: Reflect on your overall experience reading the book. What are the most impactful lessons you've learned about each stage of relationships?
2. Reflection Question: How will you apply the insights and principles from this book to your current stage in life?

Personal Reflection:

- Reflection Question: Write a personal reflection on how this book has influenced your views on singleness, dating, engagement, and marriage.
- Reflection Question: Identify one or two key takeaways that you will implement in your current or future relationships.

Group Discussion:

1. Reflection Question: What was the most surprising or enlightening part of the book for you?
2. Reflection Question: How can we support each other in applying the principles discussed in this book to our relationships?



Prayer and Commitment:

1. Reflection Question: Spend some time in prayer, asking for guidance and wisdom to apply the teachings of this book to your life.
2. Reflection Question: Consider making a commitment to regularly review and discuss the principles from this book with a trusted group of friends or within a relationship.

