



# Fall 2025 Marriage Study | Week 10

## Married with Children

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### Opening Icebreaker (5 minutes)

#### Prompt:

"What's a funny, G-rated 'kid changed everything' moment you've experienced or witnessed—sleep schedules, car seats, snack explosions, toddler theology?"

*Leader note:* Keep it light. Tie the laugh to the lesson: kids don't just enter a marriage; they *reshape* it.

### 2) Scripture Reflection (12-15 minutes)

#### Read Genesis 1:28 & Malachi 2:15 (aloud)

"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..."

"Did he not make them one? ... And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring."

#### Discussion Questions:

1. How do these passages shape the *purpose* of marriage beyond companionship and romance?
2. What does "Godly offspring" mean in practical terms for your home this week? (habits, priorities, pace)

#### Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (aloud)

"These words... shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children..."

#### Discussion Questions:

- 3) Where in your ordinary rhythms (sit, walk, lie down, rise) could Scripture and prayer be woven in more naturally?
- 4) What gets in the way—hurry, screens, fatigue—and what's one micro-habit that could help (2-3 minutes at breakfast, verse-of-the-day on the way to school, prayer at bedtime)?

### Read Psalm 127:3-5 (aloud)

"Children are a heritage from the LORD... Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them."

#### Discussion Questions:

- 5) When did children feel least like a "heritage" to you? What helped reframe them as a blessing?
- 6) How can the group pray for you to receive children (biological, adopted, spiritual) as a *gift* in your current season?

### 3) Marriage Tools Across Stages (12-15 minutes)

#### Leader recap (30 seconds):

Kids *fuse* a marriage and also *pressurize* it. God's three tools for oneness—**roles, communication, intimacy**—must adapt across stages (little, school-age, teen).

#### A. Roles (4-5 minutes)

- **Prompt:** Genesis 2 patterns (husband leads/provides; wife helps/nurtures) intensify with children.  
**Questions:**
- In your current stage, what does *encouraging leadership* look like for husbands (spiritual initiative, decision-sharing, emotional presence)?
- What does *faith-filled help* look like for wives (pointing kids to dad's shepherding, trusting God amid loss of control, naming needs clearly)?
- Where are you tempted toward bitterness, and what's one grace-filled practice to resist it?

#### B. Communication (4-5 minutes)

- **Prompt:** "Scheduled talkers" may struggle in the little years; "running talkers" may struggle in teen years.  
**Questions:**
- Which style are you? How is your current stage exposing its limits?

- Where do your parenting *values* clash (safety vs. risk, structure vs. flexibility, protection vs. independence)?
- Can each spouse articulate one strength and one risk in their own default value?

### **C. Intimacy (4-5 minutes)**

- **Prompt:** Intimacy = emotional + spiritual + physical union; each stage affects it differently.  
**Questions:**
- Little years: What restores romance without adding pressure (non-logistics dates, affection without an agenda, creative rest)?
- School years: What would “rebuild friendship” look like beyond survival?
- Teen years: How will you invest now so friendship remains when kids launch?

### **4) Practicals Lab (7-8 minutes)**

**Choose ONE lab (leader’s pick or let pairs choose):**

#### **Lab 1: Deut. 6 Micro-Rhythms (pairs, 4 minutes; share-out 2 minutes)**

Design a 2-3 *minute* daily rhythm for each slot:

- **Sit** (meals): short Scripture + 1 question.
- **Walk** (commute/errands): gratitude or prayer.
- **Lie down/Rise** (bedtime/morning): blessing or verse repeat.  
Write it down. Start *one* rhythm this week.

#### **Lab 2: Values Clash → Appreciation (pairs, 4 minutes; share-out 2 minutes)**

Each spouse names one parenting value they bring (e.g., “safety,” “adventure”). Then each states:

- One **strength** of their spouse’s value,
- One **risk** if that value dominates,

- One **shared guardrail** (e.g., curfew + planned risk).

### **Lab 3: Friendship Sprint (pairs, 4 minutes; share-out 2 minutes)**

Plan a 14-day “friendship sprint”:

- Two no-logistics touchpoints (20 minutes each).
- One screen-free walk.
- One simple date (home counts).
- One prayer together (3 minutes).  
Put times on calendars now.

### **5) Adoption & Spiritual Parenting (3-4 minutes)**

#### **Leader note (brief):**

Parenting is ultimately about passing on the **gospel**, not genes. Adoption and spiritual parenting (discipling kids/teens in the church) are “Plan A” ways to make worshippers.

#### **Questions:**

- How might your home (or calendar) reflect openness to adoption/foster/spiritual parenting in this season?
- What’s one next step (info meeting, supporting a foster family, mentoring a teen, serving in children’s ministry)?

### **6) Closing Scripture & Prayer (3-5 minutes)**

#### **Read Song of Songs 8:6-7 (aloud)**

“Set me as a seal upon your heart... for love is strong as death... Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD...”

#### **Pray:**

- For love to deepen as kids arrive, grow, and launch.

- For husbands to lead with courage and tenderness; for wives to help with faith and wisdom.
- For homes marked by Scripture, prayer, laughter, and repentance.
- For children (biological, adopted, spiritual) to become worshippers who love Jesus.

### Optional Homework (15-30 minutes this week)

1. **Stage Plan (1 page):** Name your family's current stage (little, school-age, teen, mixed). For **roles, communication, intimacy**, write one pressure + one practice for the next 30 days.
2. **Deut. 6 Card:** On an index card, write your one daily micro-rhythm (time/place/what you'll do). Tape it where you'll use it.
3. **Parenting Values Exchange:** Each spouse writes their top two parenting values with one fear underneath. Exchange, discuss, pray.
4. **Friendship Sprint Start:** Put the two touchpoints and one walk on the calendar. Protect them.
5. **Adoption/Spiritual Parenting Step:** Choose one tangible act (attend info session, sign up to serve with kids/teens, deliver a meal to a foster family, host a student for lunch).

### Leader Tips

- Keep tone hopeful and grace-filled; celebrate small wins.
- Stay concrete: "When will you do that?" "What's the *first* step?"
- Normalize seasons. Remind couples: success = **portrayal** (seeing and showing God's goodness), not production or perfection.
- End on prayer every time.