

Fall 2025 Marriage Study | Week 4

Beauty in a Fallen World

**Opening (5 minutes)**

**Icebreaker Question:**  
“When you think of the word *‘beautiful,’* what’s the first thing that comes to mind? Has your definition of beauty changed as you’ve gotten older or as you’ve walked with Christ?”

**Leader Notes:**

* Encourage variety: beauty in people, places, art, character.
* Transition: *“Peter tells us beauty isn’t just skin deep — in fact, the most precious kind of beauty is invisible but powerful. Tonight we’ll explore how God redefines beauty, removes fear, and reshapes marriage.”*
* If singles are present: “How has your view of beauty — in yourself or in others — shifted with maturity and faith?”

**Scripture Focus (5 minutes)**

Read aloud together:

* **1 Peter 3:1–7** – beauty, fear, trust, and honor in marriage.
* **Proverbs 31:30** – *“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”*
* **Ephesians 5:25–28** – husbands love as Christ loved the church.

**Group Prompt:**  
Ask: *“What stands out most about how Peter connects beauty, fear, and trust in God?”*

**Leader Notes:**

* Highlight contrasts: external vs. internal beauty, fear vs. trust, dishonor vs. honor.
* Keep the theme clear: beauty flows from trust, fear distorts it, honor protects it.

**Discussion – Beauty as the Goal (10 minutes)**

**Key Principle:** True beauty is internal, flowing from trust in God, and it makes marriage attractive to others and precious to God.

**Questions:**

* Why do you think Peter emphasizes *inner* beauty rather than outward appearance?
* Where do you see cultural pressure pushing men and women to pursue the wrong kind of beauty?
* How does pursuing “imperishable beauty” (v. 4) make a marriage more reflective of God’s character?
* For singles: How might cultivating inner beauty now shape your relationships and testimony?

**Application Challenge:**  
This week, choose one trait of “imperishable beauty” (gentleness, peace, trust in God). Pray daily for the Spirit to grow it in you — and ask someone close to you if they see evidence of it.

**Leader Notes:**

* Draw attention to v. 4: God calls inner beauty “very precious” — a reminder that God notices what culture often ignores.
* If conversation stalls: ask, *“Who’s someone you know that radiates inner beauty? What makes it so compelling?”*

**Discussion – Fear as the Obstacle (7 minutes)**

**Key Principle:** Fear is the great enemy of beauty in marriage—fear of being hurt, ignored, or misused.

**Questions:**

* Why does Peter tell wives *“do not fear anything that is frightening”* (v. 6)?
* What forms can fear take in marriage — control, withdrawal, defensiveness, anger?
* How can the gospel (hope in God’s promises) help both spouses resist fear and respond in faith?
* For singles: How has fear affected the way you approach relationships or vulnerability?

**Application Challenge:**  
Ask: *“What fear most often creeps into my marriage (or close relationships if single)?”* Write it down. Pray daily this week, surrendering that fear to God and replacing it with trust in His care.

**Leader Notes:**

* Some may hesitate to admit fear. Normalize it: *“All of us wrestle with fear in some form — the gospel speaks to that.”*
* Anchor in 1 Peter 3:6: faith in God’s promises frees us from the tyranny of fear.

**Discussion – A Husband’s Care (10 minutes)**

**Key Principle:** Husbands are called to make vulnerability safe through understanding and honor.

**Questions:**

* What does it practically mean for a husband to “live with your wives in an understanding way” (v. 7)? (Listening, studying her needs, patience.)
* How might inattentiveness, selfishness, or defensiveness fuel fear in a marriage?
* Why does Peter connect how a man treats his wife with God’s response to his prayers? (v. 7)
* For singles: What would it look like to practice honor and attentiveness in friendships, family, or church relationships?

**Application Challenge:**

* **Husbands:** Choose one way this week to intentionally show understanding and honor (listen attentively, anticipate her needs, affirm her value).
* **Wives:** Express gratitude when your husband does this.
* **Singles:** Practice showing honor in one close relationship — through listening well or affirming another’s worth.

**Leader Notes:**

* Emphasize: spiritual leadership is not entitlement — it’s responsibility. God Himself ties marital care to spiritual vitality.
* If men struggle with answers: ask, *“What’s one small way you could make your wife feel safer, heard, or valued this week?”*

**Closing (3 minutes)**

Re-read **1 Peter 3:4:**  
*“But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”*

**Prayer Points:**

* Thank God for redefining beauty as something imperishable.
* Pray that fear would be replaced by trust in God.
* Pray for marriages in the group to be safe places of vulnerability, honor, and beauty that reflect Christ.

**Leader Notes:**

* Close with reflection: *“God says beauty rooted in trust is very precious in His sight. May that be what marks our marriages and relationships.”*
* Option: End with short, sentence-long prayers of thanks or requests for growth in beauty, trust, and honor.