



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.
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