



Fall 2025 Marriage Study

Tracing the Marriage Discipleship Thread

This supplemental resource is designed to help leaders keep pointing their groups back to the big story of God's design for marriage.

The Big Story

Marriage is God's idea. From creation to the cross, marriage reflects His glory, His design, and His gospel. Each week builds on the last:

- **Week 1:** Marriage exists to reflect God's glory.
- **Week 2:** God gives distinct callings to husbands and wives.
- **Week 3:** Sin distorts God's design – but the gospel brings hope.
- **Week 4:** True beauty and safety in marriage come from trust in God, not fear.

Together, these lessons show how marriage is not primarily about us but about *displaying Christ's covenant love*.

Week 1 - The Purpose, Power, and Paradox of Marriage

- **Thread:** Marriage is created to display God's glory, not just personal fulfillment.
- **Big Takeaway:** Our differences are by design, and oneness is a gospel picture.
- **Christ Connection:** Just as Christ's love brings God glory, marriage reflects His image when lived in unity and purpose.

Week 2 - Distinct Callings, Shared Purpose

- **Thread:** Husbands and wives are equal in worth but distinct in orientation.

- **Big Takeaway:** Wives reflect Christlike trust through helping; husbands reflect Christlike sacrifice through leading.
- **Christ Connection:** Submission and leadership aren't about power – they're about mirroring Jesus, who both led with love and submitted in obedience.

Week 3 - *The Entrance and Effect of Sin*

- **Thread:** Sin twists God's design – turning harmony into hiding, blame, and power struggles.
- **Big Takeaway:** Lies, fear, and blame corrupt marriage, but the gospel restores honesty, compassion, and hope.
- **Christ Connection:** Jesus, the promised serpent-crusher (Gen. 3:15), breaks the curse and makes new oneness possible.

Week 4 - *Beauty, Fear, and Honor in Marriage*

- **Thread:** True beauty is inward and imperishable; fear distorts it, but honor protects it.
- **Big Takeaway:** God redefines beauty, replaces fear with faith, and calls husbands to make marriage safe through honor.
- **Christ Connection:** Christ loved the church with sacrificial honor, making her radiant – a picture for every husband, wife, and believer.

The Flow of the Four Weeks

1. **God's Design** (Week 1): Marriage reflects His glory.
2. **God's Order** (Week 2): Distinct roles show His wisdom.
3. **The Fall** (Week 3): Sin corrupts, but the gospel heals.
4. **The Redemption** (Week 4): Trust in God restores beauty and safety.

Leader Pointers

- **Keep Christ Central:** Every week must end at the cross – marriage only makes sense in light of the gospel.
- **Include Singles:** Remind the group that marriage is a signpost, not the destination; Christ is. All believers participate in the ultimate reality marriage points to.
- **Guard Vulnerability:** Discussions on roles, sin, and fear can be sensitive. Create a safe space for honesty without gossip or spouse-bashing.
- **Emphasize Hope:** Even when sin and brokenness dominate the conversation, highlight the gospel promise: *Christ makes all things new.*