

Key Objective:

That marriage can grow closer/sweeter with age not more distant and that marriage points prophetically to Jesus and Church.

Introduction

- Preparation for marriage is critical rather than just for the wedding day
- Much to learn, each other, the purpose of marriage, discovering our identity
- Being raised in very different home environments we hadn't realised that we bring our upbringing into our marriage.
- Intentionally learning what Christian marriage is

Bible Talk:

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." [32] This is a profound mystery---but I am talking about Christ and the church."

Ephesians 5:31-32

We need a higher vision of the beauty and magnificence of Marriage

- There is a low vision of marriage in our society and world today
- The idea of covenant/commitment has been diminished
- We are broken and damaged as a society
- We need a Biblical view - Marriage exists for the glory of God

"The greatness and glory of marriage is beyond our ability to think or feel without divine revelation and without the illumining and awakening work of the Holy Spirit. The world cannot know what marriage is without learning it from God" - **John Piper**

- Marriage instituted by God to be a wonderful expression of his relationship with humanity
- See the beauty of sacrifice and love, the wonder of forgiveness and mercy

- See the power of oneness and the joy of living for another and their glory
- See self sacrifice and commitment and the strength of covenant to hold a marriage together
- See the enabling grace of God being the third strand in every cord of marital relationship
- God lift up our vision, our sights, we live in such depravity and surrounded by evil and selfishness

Six Practical Steps:

1. Pray

Praying for each other, praying together.

2. Learn

Reading books and listening to talks on marriage, meeting older wiser married people.

3. Time

Date nights/quality time.

4. Rythems

Enjoying a day off each week, 24 hrs away each month.

5. Communication

Learning to share, communicating and diary meetings.

6. Love Language

Learning how we give and receive love (Gary Chapman)

