

The Big Picture: Running the Race of Marriage Well

Proverbs (variety of texts)

Couples Project

March 6, 2018

Part I - *To be completed separately before the message. You can begin at your leisure, but time will be given at the beginning of the meeting to complete this first portion.*

1. How ready do you think you were for marriage? What are some key things you wish you knew or had when you first started?
2. In our last session, you were asked what two or three goals you have for your marriage. Restate them here. If you don't remember your answer, that's fine. Just answer freshly here. (If you can't think of any goals, consider writing that and then why you think that is.)
3. What is one area in your marriage you wish you had an easier time talking about? Meaning, if it was easier to talk about, you believe you could make greater strides in improving it?

Part II - *To be completed separately after the message. Time will be given following the message to complete this second portion.*

1. What are two or three things you heard in the message that stand out to you as applicable to your marriage as it is currently?
2. Rob addressed five "look" steps: Look at How You Want to Live, Look in the Mirror First, Look at How You Respond, Live Like You Want to Look, & Look to Christ. Which of these do you believe needs most to be addressed in you personally? If the answer is different for you as a couple, jot that down as well.

3. What is one specific step you could take in this next week that would bolster how well you Look to Christ?

Part III - *There will be a brief period of time when you are directed to turn to groups of 3-4 couples to discuss the following. You will NOT be asked to disclose anything personal. It is simply a time to share ideas and suggestions...things that each couple has learned works and doesn't work. When directed, please discuss the following topics:*

1. Share some ways you've learned to stay connected during busy times.
2. What are some principles or practices that have shaped your marriage for the better? (The idea here is to learn, not mimic.)
3. Ask a practical question of the couples in your group that you believe would serve your marriage. (Remember, this is not the time for serious or deeply personal questions.)

Part IV - *To be completed together within one week after the meeting. Take time where you can talk in an uninterrupted and unhurried way to complete the third portion of this project. As you talk, share your thoughts on the small group discussion time. Here's a plan if you need one.*

1. Pray. Ask God for his help to keep your conversation fruitful and redemptive. If, at any point during the conversation you feel conflict brewing, stop and remember together that Christ means to be the center of the marriage and the conversation, not a conflict.
2. Take the time to share your answers from Question 1 in Part II. Realize that God may have spoken to each of you in different ways, seeking to address different things. Don't correct or critique. Simply inform and share God's activity during the message.
3. Review you answers to Question 3 from Part I. Graciously talk about how you each could make it easier to discuss those areas of your marriage. Don't argue. If it starts to get tense, review Part IV #1.
4. Review your answers to Question 2 from Part II. Take note of what your spouse provides as the answer and pray for them to that end. Consider asking your spouse if they'd add anything to what you answer.
5. Pray. Ask God to strengthen you with the might of his power as he fills your marriage with his Spirit. Ask him to forgive you for your contribution to any challenges and thank him for bringing you together as a couple. Pray that God would provide all of the help you need