

# Marriage

Date: February 23 - April 5

Teachers: Jonathan and Christa Threlfall

Location: Chapel

**Description of Wisdom Track (of which this module is a part):** For Christians, wisdom is more than the accumulation of knowledge. It is the skill that puts that knowledge into action. This knowledge, moreover, is not just of facts, but of a Person: “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom” (Job 28:28). Therefore, by knowing God through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6), we gain the skills necessary to navigate life in this present world (1 Corinthians 1:30).

**Description of Marriage Module.** In our culture, most people still view marriage as an important part of the fabric of a healthy society. But in God’s wisdom, marriage occupies an even more significant role: it is meant to be a picture of the radically selfless loyalty Christ has for his people. This means that for Christians, what is at stake in healthy marriages is nothing less than the glory of God. Therefore, Christians, whether married or single, should seek to gain the wisdom it takes to navigate this aspect of life that is both bewildering and wonderful.

Open to single and married people alike, this seven-week module aims to give participants the theological convictions and practical skills necessary for a marriage in which married partners find joy and meaning in Christ.

## Overview of Lessons

1. February 23 - Lesson One - **What Is Marriage For? What the Bible Teaches about Marriage**

What is the ideal marriage? Full of romance and excitement? That doesn’t seem sustainable. Just stable and committed? That doesn’t seem fulfilling. What about marriages that are affected by chronic illness or broken promises. Can those be “ideal”? Maybe we’re asking the wrong question. Instead of asking “what’s the ideal marriage,” we must ask, “What is marriage for?” This question drives us to the Bible’s teaching on marriage.

The Bible reveals that marriage is not meaningful in itself. Like everything else God has created, it has meaning only when seen in view of God and eternity. Marriage, then, is a temporary way we humans can display the glory of God.

2. March 1 - Lesson Two - **How Does Marriage Work? What the Bible Teaches about Marriage**

The classic Biblical passage on marriage is Ephesians 5:21-33. In this lesson, we will unpack this passage, focusing on its application to husbands and wives. Paul’s explanation of marriage in Ephesians 5 comes in the context of his command that his readers “be filled with

the Spirit,” which means that a healthy Christian marriage is possible only if both marriage partners are filled with the Spirit.

3. March 8 - Lesson Three - **Love in Marriage**

We know that marriages should be *loving*, but what is this love? The love of a newly-married couple may look very different from the love of a couple who has been married for decades. This lesson will unfold the Biblical meaning of love and explore what it means when couples encounter each other’s flaws.

4. March 15 - Lesson Four - Marriage Essentials 1

This lesson covers topics important for wisely navigating the “mysteries” of marriage, including sex and children.

5. March 22 - Lesson Five: Marriage Essentials 2

This lesson covers topics important for wisely navigating the “mysteries” of marriage, including finances and communication.

6. March 29 - Lesson Six - Marriage and Crisis

Personal crises—beyond the day-to-day challenges of living—can put stress on a marriage. Miscarriage, a pornography addiction, a death in the family, or joblessness can cause couples to “drift apart.” This lesson will address some of these situations and point to essential disciplines for maintaining a healthy marriage in the midst of such crises.

7. April 5 - Lesson Seven: **Panel Discussion on Marriage**

A panel composed of married couples in various stages of life will discuss topics including: marriage over the years, marriage under pressure, and advice to single people.



