

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2020

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

SESSION ONE GOD’S PURPOSE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Pre-session marriage work review:

- ✓ List two expectations you have for this weekend.
- ✓ List two things God wants to accomplish in you this weekend.

1. **God’s Purpose for Your Life:** _____

A. *Romans 11:33-36 – “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” 36 For **from** him and **through** him and **to** him are all things. **To him be glory forever. Amen.**”*

B. In our relation to the _____.

*Matthew 5:16 – “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and **give glory to your Father** who is in heaven.*

C. In our relation to our _____.

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – “19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. **So, glorify God in your body.**”*

D. In reference to our spiritual _____.

*Philippians 1:9-11 – “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, **to the glory and praise of God.**”*

E. In reference to _____.

*1 Corinthians 10:31 – “31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**”*

2. God's Plan to Accomplish His Purpose: Your Growth into _____.

- A. Col 1:28-29 – “28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone **mature in Christ**. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

- B. Romans 8:28-29 – “28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

- C. James 1:2-4 – “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that **you may be perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing.”

- D. 1 Peter 1:6-7 – “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that **the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ**.”

E. *Galatians 4:19 – “19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until **Christ is formed in you!**”*

3. How can I measure my _____?

A. You have the _____ of the Spirit

*Galatians 5:22-24 – “**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;** against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions.”*

B. You have _____ love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

C. You put your spouse's _____ above your own.

Philippians 2:3-5 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”

4. One of God's Main Refiner's Fire: _____

*1 Corinthians 7:28 – “But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly **troubles**, and I would spare you that.”*

A. It is a _____ fire.

B. It is an _____ fire.

C. It is a _____ fire.

5. Post-session Marriage Work:

1. How is God using your marriage to help you grow into Christ-likeness?

2. Which aspect of the character of Christ are you most lacking?
See Galatians 5:22-24, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

3. How do you think God wants to use your marriage to develop this in your life?

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2020

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

SESSION TWO SPEAKING YOUR PARTNER’S LOVE LANGUAGE

1. The Love Languages

A. _____ words

B. _____ of service

C. _____ time

D. _____ touch and closeness

E. _____ giving

2. Marriage Work

Do the first part of this exercise by yourself and the second part with your spouse. Keep in mind that the five love languages are: words of encouragement, acts of service, gift giving, quality time, and physical touch and closeness.

- ✓ **PART ONE:** In the boxes below list and rank, from greatest priority to the least, the love languages of your spouse. This is not a list of what you think your spouse would like, but what he or she actually speaks. Next, rank yourself starting with your primary love language to the last.
- ✓ **PART TWO:** After you and your spouse complete this assignment, compare lists and see how well you know each other.
- ✓ **PART THREE:** Commit to do one thing each day to speak your partner's love language.
 - Today I will _____.

YOUR LOVE LANGUAGES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

YOUR SPOUSE'S LOVE LANGUAGES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2020

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

SESSION THREE **GOD’S FORMULA FOR A GOD-GLORIFYING MARRIAGE**

Ephesians 5:22-31 – “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church [q]in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.”

1 Peter 3:1-7 – “In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. 3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; 6 just as

Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right [b]without being frightened by any fear. 7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered”.

1. Our God-given Need

A. Wife -- _____ love

*Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, **love your wives**, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”*

➤ She needs to _____ with her husband.

➤ She tries to connect by _____.

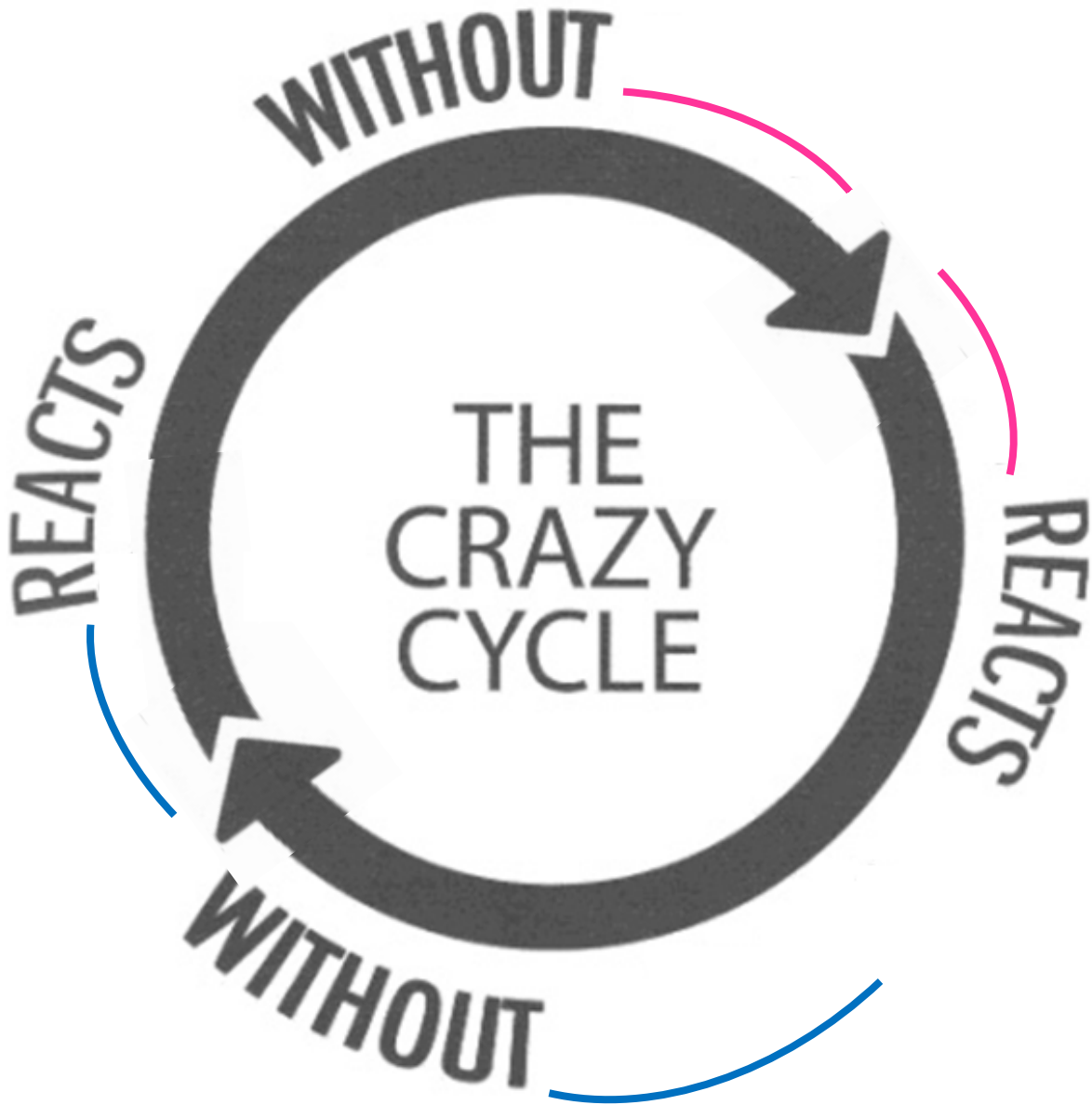
B. Husband-- _____ respect

*Ephesians 5:31 – “However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that **she respects** her husband.*

➤ He needs to be _____ by his wife.

➤ When he does not get respect, he _____

2. The Real Problem—the Crazy Cycle

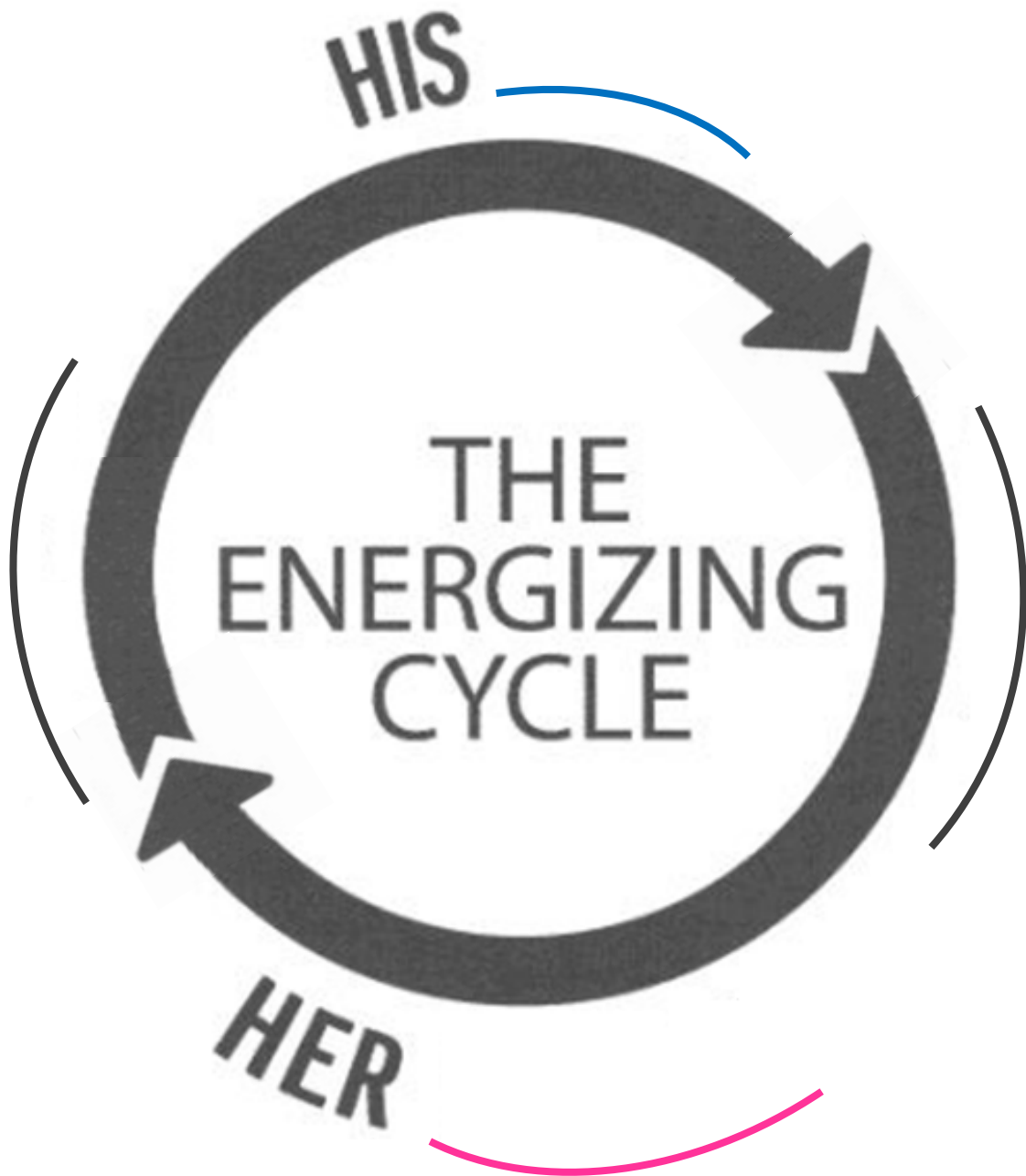


MARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2020

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

SESSION FOUR **THE ENERGIZING CYCLE**



1. How to Unconditionally Love Your Wife

➤ **C** _____

Deuteronomy 24:5 – “When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.”

A. Your wife wants to _____ with you—to feel close to you

B. The first few _____ when you get home are so important:

TABLE 4.1: YOUR WIFE FEELS CLOSE TO YOU WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You hold her hand. You hug her (nonsexual way).			
You are with her alone so you can focus on each other and laugh together.			
You are affectionate without sexual intentions.			
You go for a walk or jog . . . anything that results in togetherness.			
You seek her out. Set up a date night.			
You go out of your way to do something for her, like run an errand.			
You make it a priority to spend time with her.			
You are aware of her as a person with a mind and opinions. You let her know you enjoy discussing things with her and getting her insights.			
You suggest the unexpected . . . get takeout and eat on the beach . . . take a walk to see the full moon . . . park on the bluff and watch the sunset.			
You pillow talk after making love . . . lie close with your arm around her and share feelings and intimate ideas . . . and <i>never</i> turn on <i>SportsCenter</i> or <i>Nightline</i> .			

➤ **O** _____

A. Women usually process things _____ —
she is expressive but men usually do _____ want
to talk about problems

B. This immediately presents a problem

C. Men _____ and women

D. She wants to keep the marital issues _____ .

TABLE 4.2: YOUR WIFE FEELS YOU ARE OPEN TO HER WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You share your feelings, telling about your day and difficulties			
Your face shows you want to talk—relaxed body language, good eye contact.			
You say, "Let's talk," ask her what she's feeling, and ask for her opinions			
You take her for a walk to talk and reminisce about how you or perhaps you talk about the kids and problems she may be with them			
You pray with her			
You give her your full attention . . . no grunting responses while trying to watch TV, read the newspaper, or write e-mails			
You discuss financial concerns, possible job changes, or your future			
You share with her your problems, concerns, and fears			
You try to keep your relationship "up-to-date," resolving unresolved and never saying, "Forget it."			

➤ U _____

1 Peter 3:7 – “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way.”

A. Don't try to _____ her just

B. Learn to _____ with her.

C. Actively listening take _____ and

TABLE 4.3: SHE FEELS YOU'RE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND HER WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You listen and can repeat back what she said.			
You don't try to "fix her problems" unless she specifically asks for a solution.			
You try to identify her feelings.			
You never dismiss her feelings, no matter how .illogical they may seem to you			
You say, "I appreciate your sharing that with me."			
You don't interrupt her when she's trying to tell you how she feels.			
You apologize and admit you were wrong.			
You cut her some slack during her monthly cycle.			
You see something that needs to be done and you do it without any hassle.			
You express appreciation for all she does: "Honey, I could not do your job."			
You pray with her and for her.			

➤ P _____

1 Corinthians 7:28 – “28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.”

TABLE 4.4: SHE'LL FEEL AT PEACE WITH YOU WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You let her vent her frustrations and hurts and don't get angry and close her off.			
You admit you are wrong and apologize by saying, "I'm sorry, will you forgive me?"			
You understand her natural desire to negotiate, compromise, defer, and you meet her halfway.			
You forgive her for any wrongs she confesses			
You never nurse bitterness and always reassure her of your love.			
You pray with her after a hurtful time.			

➤ L _____

Ephesians 5:25-26 – “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

- A. She needs to know you are _____ to her, the kids, and the marriage.

Mal 2:14-16 – “14 But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So, guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

- B. She needs to know you are a _____ man.

Job 31:1 - “I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?”

TABLE 4.5: SHE IS ASSURED OF YOUR LOYALTY WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You speak highly of her in front of others.			
You help her make decisions, such as ones regarding the children.			
You are involved in things important to her.			
You don't correct her in front of the children.			
You don't look lustfully at other <i>women</i> .			
You <i>make</i> her and your marriage a priority.			
You are <i>never</i> critical of her or your children in front of the others.			
You include her in social gatherings when others may leave their spouses home.			
You tell the kids, "Don't speak to your mother that way."			
You call and let her know your plans.			
You keep commitments.			
You speak positively of <i>her and the children at all times</i> .			

➤ E _____

Ephesians 5:29 – “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.”

A. She needs you to express your _____ for her as a wife and mother.

B. She wants to feel like she is a _____ in your life.

TABLE 4.6: YOUR WIFE WILL FEEL ESTEEMED WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You say, "I'm so proud of the way you handled that."			
You open the door for her.			
You try something new with her.			
You speak highly of her in front of others.			
You give her encouragement or praise with kindness and enthusiasm.			
You notice something different about her hair or clothes.			
You are physically affectionate with her in public.			
You teach the children to show her and others respect.			
You value her opinion in the gray areas as not wrong but just different---and valid.			
You choose family outings over "guy things."			
You make her feel first in importance.			
You are proud of her and all she does.			

2. Marriage Work

- ✓ PART ONE: Wife, pick one of the areas discussed above and complete the corresponding table by selecting the appropriate response for how you feel your husband is doing in each situation. Husband, complete the same table as your wife by selecting the appropriate response for how you feel you are doing in each situation.

- ✓ PART TWO: After completing part one, take a few moments and compare your tables and discuss the results.

- ✓ PART THREE: Wife, pick one situation in that area that especially makes you feel most loved. Husband, commit to work on doing that thing that makes her feel most loved.

- ✓ PART FOUR: In the following weeks commit to work on your marriage by completing the other tables found in this session in the same fashion.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2020

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

SESSION FIVE **UNCONDITIONALLY RESPECT YOUR HUSBAND**

Ephesians 5:31 – *“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that **she respects her husband.**”*

➤ C _____ - Respect his need to work and achieve

A. Men are born to achieve and _____

*Gen 2:15-16 – “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work it and keep it.**”*

B. A man’s _____ is usually tied to his work.

Gen 3:17-19 – “*cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread.*”

TABLE 5.1: YOUR HUSBAND WILL FEEL YOU RESPECT HIS DESIRE TO WORK AND ACHIEVE WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You tell him verbally or in writing that you value his work efforts.			
You express your faith in him related to his chosen field.			
You listen to his work stories as closely as you expect him to listen to your accounts of what happens in the family.			
You see yourself as his helpmate and counterpart and talk with him about this whenever possible.			
You allow him to dream as you did when you were courting.			
You don't dishonor or subtly criticize his work "in the field" to get him to show more love "in the family."			

➤ P _____ and _____

A. He will gladly _____ for his family.

B. He is especially sensitive to _____ in the area of providing for the family.

TABLE 5.2: YOU HUSBAND WILL FEEL YOU APPRECIATE HIS DESIRE TO PROTECT AND PROVIDE WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You praise his commitment to provide for and protect you and the family (he needs to know you don't take this for granted).			
You verbalize your admiration of him for protecting you and being willing to die for you.			
You empathize when he reveals his male mind-set about position, status, rank, or being one-up or one-down, particularly at work.			
You never mock the idea of "looking up to him" as your protector to prevent him from "looking down on you.			
You never, in word or body language, put down his job or how much he makes			
You quietly and respectfully voice concerns about finances and offer solutions on where you might be able to cut spending.			

➤ **A** _____ - **Respect his desire to serve and to lead**

A. The real meaning of Biblical _____

Ephesians 5:22-24 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.”

B. The man leads through his _____

Ephesians 5:25-26 – “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

TABLE 5.3: HE WILL FEEL YOU RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You tell him you are thankful for his strength and enjoy being able to lean on him at times.			
You support his self-image as a leader.			
You never say, "You're responsible but we're still equal, so don't make a decision I don't agree with."			
You praise his good decisions.			
You are gracious if he makes a bad decision.			
You disagree with him only in private and honor his authority in front of the kids.			
You give your reasons for disagreeing quietly and reasonably, but you never attack his right to lead.			

➤ I _____ - Respect his desire to analyze and counsel

A. God does speak through the _____

Ephesians 5:22 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

B. Women are more susceptible to be _____

1 Timothy 2:12-14 – “But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

TABLE 5.4: YOUR HUSBAND WILL FEEL YOU RESPECT HIS INSIGHT AND COUNSEL WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You tell him upfront you just need his ear; don't complain to him later that he always tries to "fix" you.			
You thank him for his advice without acting insulted or like he doesn't care about your feelings.			
You recognize his problem-solving approach as his male brand of empathy.			
You realize your vulnerabilities, especially among males, and value his protection.			
You counsel him respectfully when you differ with his ideas (you can be right but wrong at the top of your voice).			
You sometimes let him "fix things" and applaud his solutions			
You let him know that you believe God has made us male and female for a purpose and that we need each other.			
You admit that you can sin and thank him for his perception and godly counsel.			

➤ **S _____ - Respect his desire for sexual intimacy**

A. His sexual release is like _____ release is to you.

B. His sense of respect is closely tied up to his _____ .

TABLE 5.5: HE WILL FEEL YOU RESPECT HIS DESIRE FOR SEXUAL INTIMACY WHEN

	RARELY	SOMETIMES	MOST OFTEN
You understand his need for sexual release just as you need emotional release.			
You tell him what you admire about his masculinity.			
You respond to him sexually more often and initiate sex periodically.			

2. Marriage Work

- ✓ PART ONE: Husband, pick one of the areas discussed above and complete the corresponding table by selecting the appropriate response for how you feel your wife is doing in each situation. Wife, complete the same table as your husband by selecting the appropriate response for how you feel you are doing in each situation.
- ✓ PART TWO: After completing part one, take a few moments and compare your tables and discuss the results.
- ✓ PART THREE: Husband, pick one situation in that area that especially makes you feel most respected. Wife, commit to work on doing that thing that makes him feel most respected.
- ✓ PART FOUR: In the following weeks commit to work on your marriage by completing the other tables found in this session in the same fashion.

Note: These three sessions have been taken from the book Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2020

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

SESSION SIX **THE SEX TALK**

1. On the sheet provided write down one thing you want to say to your spouse about your sex life that you have been afraid to say.
2. What God wants to say to you about your sex life.

➤ Biblical Principles Governing Sex (adapted from Dr. Daniel Akin):

A. Sexual relations within marriage are _____ and _____ God encourages intimate relations and warns against their cessation.

1 Corinthians 7:5 – “Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

B. Pleasure in sexual relations is both _____ and _____.

Proverbs 5:15-19 – “Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.”

- C. Sexual pleasure is to be guided by the principle that one’s sexuality is to be _____-oriented (“rights” over one’s body are given in marriage to the other party).

1 Corinthians 7:4 – “For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. “

- D. Sexual relations are to be _____ and _____ . No exact number of times per week is right and correct, but the biblical principle is that both parties are to provide adequate sexual satisfaction so that the temptation to find satisfaction elsewhere are avoided.

1 Corinthians 7:9 – “Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

- E. In most cases, the husband will want sex _____ and the wife will want sex _____. They both must find a compromise that they can live with. He will have to settle for less than he wants and she will have to settle for more than she wants.

F. In accordance with the principle of “rights,” there is to be no sexual _____ between married persons (“I’ll not have sex with you if you...”). Neither party has the right to make such bargains.

G. Whatever is honoring to God and natural, safe, pleasing, enjoyable, satisfying to both is acceptable (Hb. 13:4-5). The body of each belongs to the other (1 Cor. 7:4). Neither should demand from the other what is painful, harmful, objectionable, or distasteful to him or her.

3. Marriage Work

- ✓ Wife: Pick one of these principles or beginning comments that you want your husband to understand and discuss your thoughts, feelings, or desires about it.
- ✓ Husband: Pick one of these principles or beginning comments that you want your husband to understand and discuss your thoughts, feelings, or desires about it.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2020

Philippians 2:3-5

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

SESSION SEVEN **HOW TO HAVE A GOOD FIGHT!**

Acts 15:1-35

1. P _____

*Ephesians 6:10-12, 18 – “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, **with all prayer** and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance.”*

2. Set an agreeable _____ to settle the disagreement.

Acts 15:2 – “And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.”

3. Love must be the _____ factor.

Philippians 2:3-6 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”

4. Get the problem out in the _____ .

Acts 15:5 – “But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.””

5. Center on the problem not the _____ .

Acts 15:6 – “The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.”

6. Keep the conflict _____ .

Acts 15:6-7 – “The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.”

7. Each person _____ stated his views.

Acts 15:7 – “And after there had been much debate”

8. Lower voices _____ notch instead of raising them two.

Acts 15:7-11 – “And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, 9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

9. Hear with understanding what _____ is saying.

Acts 15:12-13 – “And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.”

James 1:19-20 – “19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God

requires.”

10. See if the Word of God sheds _____ on the situation.

Acts 15:15-18 – “15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, 16 “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, 17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things 18 known from of old.”

Philippians 2:3-6 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”

11. Live by the _____ .

Acts 15:22 – “Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.”

12. Make sure the solution is _____ to everyone involved.

Acts 15:22-30 – “Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, 23 and they sent this letter by them, “The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings. 24 “Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, 25 it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ. 27 "Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word of mouth. 28 "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: 29 that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell." 30 So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter."

13. Choose to _____ them.

Ephesians 4:31-32 – "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Marriage Work

- ✓ Which of these are missing in your fights?

- ✓ What can you do personally to make your fights better?
