

# *Strong Marriages for Healthy, Homeschooling Environments*

Scott LaPierre | [www.scottlapierre.org](http://www.scottlapierre.org)

## **Lesson 1:** Husbands:

- (Part I) Love their wives by \_\_\_\_\_ them with the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3, 17:17).
- (Part II) Love their wives by setting the \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ in the home.
- (Part III) Get the wives they \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:27; Galatians 5:19–23, 6:7).

## **Lesson 2:** Wives:

- (Part I) Put their husbands in \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (Part II) Submit to their husbands even though they \_\_\_\_\_.
- (Part III) Submit because they \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 3:5–6).
- (Part IV) Keep their strength \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lesson 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ is on the father's shoulders, but mothers can make it easier (Eph 6:4).

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

I would encourage you to go through the discussion questions with your spouse to cement the teaching in your heart, and to apply it to your relationship. The following information is taken from the *Marriage God's Way Workbook* and will help you receive the most benefit from your times of discussion.

## Expect Tension

In Chapter 2 of *Marriage God's Way*, the third section, “Embrace the Struggle,” says:

As you work through this book, recognize the tension created in your marriage is a good thing. God is introducing areas that need to be improved, and the best way to do that is by asking each other tough questions.

This will be even truer as you ask each other the discussion questions. Whenever you experience tension, remember God is at work strengthening weak areas of your relationship!

## Focus on the Way Your Spouse Feels

Many questions contain the word “feels.” This is because:

- It is not a question of whether a husband *thinks* he loves his wife. It is a question of whether his wife *feels* loved.
- It is not a question of whether a wife *thinks* she respects her husband. It is a question of whether her husband *feels* respected.

Consider these two passages from *Marriage God's Way*:

1. In Chapter 10 the sixth section, “Perception Is Reality,” records: “Note the emphasis here is how a wife *feels*. A husband might insist: ‘My wife is the supreme relationship in my life. She is more important than anything else.’ But the wife might not feel that way. A wife’s perception is her reality. It is not about what the husband says or even thinks but about what the wife feels.”
2. Chapter 11 discusses wives respecting their husbands, and the fifth section, “Learning, Then Embracing” records: “A wife who does [these things] will have a husband who feels very respected.”

Focus on the way your spouse feels. Then, after learning how your spouse feels, make the appropriate changes to help your spouse feel differently. The poor alternative is trying to talk your husband or wife out of feeling the way he or she feels. The section, “Embrace the Struggle,” also says:

A husband might say, “Outside of the Lord Himself, do you feel you are taking second place to anything in my life?” If a wife answers that she does not feel she is the supreme relationship in her husband’s life, the husband should not try to talk her out of the way she feels or persuade her to see things differently. Likewise, a wife might ask her husband, “Do you feel I respect you?” If the husband explains how she makes him feel disrespected, the wife should not argue with her husband and try to convince him he is wrong. Instead, each spouse should listen to the other and try to make the appropriate changes.

Similarly, if your husband or wife is hurt by something you have done, do not try to make him or her feel wrong. When hearing your spouse’s thoughts, commit to not interrupting or arguing. If you understand how your spouse feels, then you will learn to treat him or her the way he or she wants to be treated.

### **Crucify Your Flesh and Apologize the Right Way**

As you and your spouse ask each other the tough questions, you are going to hear answers that reveal your weaknesses, hurts you have caused, and ways you have failed. Your flesh will flare up and threaten the work God wants to do in your marriage. Stay on guard against your sinful nature tempting you to get angry. Do not let pride have victories in your marriage!

Instead, humble yourself and ask for forgiveness the right way. Some people—whether intentionally or unintentionally—act like they are apologizing, but their “apologies” are simply ways of making excuses and shifting blame. This only serves to increase frustration and hurt. Sincere apologies have the opposite effect—they diffuse aggression and prevent bitterness. Proverbs 15:1a says, “A soft answer turns away wrath” and there are not many softer answers than apologies made the right way. To do this, make sure you avoid two words:

1. Avoid the word “but.” When an “apology” contains this word, it is an excuse disguised as a confession:
  - “I’m sorry, BUT if they hadn’t done that...”
  - “I am sorry, BUT this happened...”
  - “I’m sorry, BUT I never would’ve done this if not for...”
2. Avoid the word “you.” When an “apology” contains this word, it is a manipulative way for people to shift blame, and make the other person feel bad about being hurt or upset:
  - “I’m sorry YOU did this...”
  - “Well, I’m sorry YOU are mad...”
  - “I’m sorry YOU are offended...”

Instead, make sure you apologize the right way. This involves two steps:

1. First, say: “I am sorry for . . .” or “I am sorry I . . .” followed by the offense you committed.
2. Then, say: “Will you please forgive me?”

The second step is important because it:

- Shows you recognize you have done something requiring forgiveness
- Shows you are not minimizing your actions
- Engages the other person and requires a response

Finally, if your spouse asks for forgiveness and you say, “I forgive you,” you are obligated to do your best to forgive the way God forgives. God does not forget our sins, but He does choose not to remember them:

- Isaiah 43:25b—I will not remember your sins.
- Jeremiah 31:34b—I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.
- Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17—Their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no more.

When you say, “I forgive you,” you are committing to do your best to:

- Not remember your spouse’s sin
- Not hold the sin against your spouse
- Refuse to bring up the sin in the future

Thank you for the privilege of sharing God’s Word with you. If I can ever pray for you in any way, please don’t hesitate to let me know!

God bless,  
Scott LaPierre  
[scott@scottlapierre.org](mailto:scott@scottlapierre.org)  
[www.scottlapierre.org](http://www.scottlapierre.org)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Husband asks wife:

1. Do you feel like I love you? What do I do that makes you feel loved? What do I do that makes you feel unloved?
2. How do I make it hard for you to submit to me? How do I make it easier for you to submit to me?
3. Do you feel like I listen to your thoughts when it comes to making decisions?
4. Do you feel like I admit when I'm wrong, or do I make excuses and shift blame?
5. What can I do to be a better spiritual leader in the home?

### Wife asks wife:

1. What do I do that makes it easy to love me? What do I do that makes it hard to love me?
2. Do we have anything in our home that should be removed, because it is threatening our holiness?
3. Do you feel like I take control of situations or decisions that should be left to you?
4. What do I do that makes you feel respected? What do I do that makes you feel disrespected?
5. How can I make your spiritual leadership in the home easier?

**NOTE:** The message and discussion questions are taken from *Marriage God's Way* and the accompanying workbook.



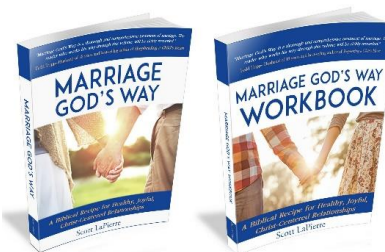
Would you (or your church) like to host a Marriage God’s Way Conference, or invite Scott for a speaking event? You can expect:

- Professionally prepared and delivered messages
- Copies of my books to offer as gifts to increase registrations (if you desire)
- Advertising of your event on my website and social media (if you desire)
- Facebook ads and/or a Facebook event page so the event can serve as an outreach (if you desire)
- Prompt responses to any communication

**Present this paper at Scott’s booth to receive 10% off any of his books.**

### Marriage God’s Way and the Marriage God’s Way Workbook: A Biblical Recipe for Healthy, Joyful, Christ-Centered Relationships

Nearly everything in life comes with instructions—from the cell phones we use to the automobiles we drive. Yet when it comes to marriage, many people struggle without proper guidance. Couples experience pain and conflict when love and joy should flourish. The good news is there are instructions for marriage too, written by the One who created marriage. In *Marriage God’s Way*, whether you are preparing for your wedding, newlyweds, or marriage veterans, you will learn these biblical instructions. Endorsed by well-known ministry leaders:



- “The reader will be richly rewarded!”—**Tedd Tripp**: Best-selling author of *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*
- “This is what every marriage needs!”—**Scott Brown**: Founder of The National Center for Family-Integrated Churches and author of *A Theology of the Family*
- “Scott LaPierre helps couples find the intimacy God intended!”—**Reb Bradley**: Founder of Family Ministries and best-selling author of *Child Training Tips*