



Our culture puts a lot of emphasis on picking wisely when it comes to marriage, but couples quickly learn that marriage is a lifetime of choices that determine health and happiness. This series will explore the big decisions that followers of Jesus must regularly make to build a marriage that thrives.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick and Jamie began by reminding us that *“just because something is good doesn’t mean it is easy.”* How have you experienced that to be true in a relationship recently?

2 SO TRUE! We must choose truth over myth. *Your marriage has an enemy.* What is one main reason Satan attacks every marriage between believers? Follow up: **Read Ephesians 6:10, John 8:44, and 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.** What do these verses say about Satan’s tactics? From your experience, what are some other lies (in addition to the ones below) that the enemy uses to attack relationships? What is our “counter-strategy” to defeat satanic deception? In what ways does what we believe shape how we behave?

3 NOT TRUE! “Marriage shouldn’t be this hard.” *Even if the marriage was made in heaven, it has to be lived in a fallen world.* Why is it important to know this going into a relationship? What is one example of how marriage has been hard for you? Follow up: **Read Hebrews 12:14.** What is one specific way you have to constantly “work” on yourself and your marriage to make it better?

4 NOT TRUE! “I married the wrong person.” *The great task of marriage is learning to love the stranger you pledged to live your life with.* Rick and Jamie mentioned several things every couple must learn to wrestle with (*family of origin issues, different temperaments and personalities, sin natures, and our own set of wounds*). Which of those have been most challenging for you? Follow up: **Read Colossians 3:14.** Share a practical example of how God has taught you to “love the different.”

5 NOT TRUE! “I’m not the one with the problem.” *There is no doubt your mate needs to change; we all do... But you are not called to be your mate’s Holy Spirit.* Rick also noted that you can do 2 things in this regard: (1) *Give up control and pursue influence* (**1 Peter 3:1-4**), and (2) *Be the healthiest person you can be* (**2 Peter 3:18**). What does that look like in practical terms? What is one thing you need to focus on? Homework: each day this week regularly ask yourself one question: *“What is it like being married to me?”*

6 NOT TRUE! “If he/she loved me they would not.” *It is unrealistic to expect sinners to live together and never wound one another.* **Read Ephesians 4:31-32.** What are some practical ways you can apply these words from Paul to improve any relationship? Follow up: If you’re married how have you specifically applied these verses in your marriage?

7 NOT TRUE! “There is no hope for our marriage.” *Many struggling marriages see only two options: divorce or living in misery.* Why do you think most people get stuck here without focusing on the third option Rick and Jamie mentioned (resurrection)? How can remembering **1 Corinthians 13:7** help you to always choose the third option? Follow up: Rick and Jamie closed by reminding us, *“To take our vows seriously we must take Easter seriously.”* Why is that so true and how has it impacted your marriage recently?

