



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 began by pointing out that *“Most newlyweds think they are about to embark on a journey of ‘happily ever after.’ They soon learn the marriages that last learn the importance of ‘happily even after...”* How have you seen that to be true? Why is it so important for couples to see the distinction?

2 Followers of Jesus choose holy over happy. *Kingdom people place a priority on pursuing holiness, and especially in all things marriage.* Why is the pursuit of happiness the wrong thing to pursue in a marriage? Follow up: **Read Hebrews 13:4.** In what ways have you seen God use marriages as a platform for displaying holiness? How have you experienced God using your marriage as a platform for developing holiness?

3 MARRIAGE HELPS ME be more like Christ. *Marriage is going to change you.* What is one way your marriage has changed you for the better? Follow up: **Read Ephesians 5:25-27.** What do you think of the idea that you are to help your spouse become the person God wants to eventually make him or her? What does that require of you?

4 BECAUSE... it helps me see the selfish in me. *God’s wedding gift is a mirror: “Here’s what you really look like.”* What is something your marriage is currently teaching you about yourself? Follow up: *A marriage proposal is an application for servanthood.* **Read Philippians 2:3-4.** What is challenging about the idea of putting your spouse’s

happiness ahead of your own in response to what Jesus has done for you? What is one way you’ve seen your spouse put your happiness ahead of his or her own?

5 BECAUSE... it calls me to will when I don’t feel. *No marriage that puts “feel” over “will” can survive.* Reflect on that statement for a moment, why do you think that is true? **Read Luke 6:31-33.** How does this description of love challenge you? Follow up: *God wants you to do what love does even when you’re not feeling it.* **Read 1 Corinthians 13:7.** What are some practical actions you can take to love your spouse even when you’re not feeling affection for him or her?

6 BECAUSE... it gives me a place to grow in grace. *A Christian marriage should be the union of two good forgivers.* **Read Colossians 3:13.** Share an example of how you’ve seen your spouse apply this verse in your marriage. Follow up: What are some things you could do to recognize the change and growth God is producing in your spouse’s life?

7 MARRIAGE HELPS ME want more of Christ. *Even the best marriages realize something is missing.* What’s the danger of asking your mate to fill what only Christ can fill? What is one way you currently encourage your mate to pursue God? **Read Ephesians 1:16-17.** What is one thing you can focus on this week in your marriage (or other relationships) to bring you closer to Jesus?

