



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 What principles or insights have resonated with you the most from this series (*Die Over My, We Over Me, Truth Over Myth, Holy Over Happy*)? Which one is most challenging for you? Share one example of how those truths can help you make your marriage better. What other resources have been a blessing to your marriage recently?

2 Rick ends this series by acknowledging that *some marriages don't last*. How has divorce directly or indirectly impacted your life? Follow up: **Choose better over bitter.** *What should a follower of Jesus want to do when they have to go through what they never wanted?* With that question in mind, how do you normally face hard times?

3 TRUTH AND GRACE: Truth – God hates divorce! *God is against anything that attacks and destroys what He is for.* **Read Malachi 2:13-16.** How does it make you feel knowing that God hates divorce? What are some key reasons God loves marriage and hates divorce? Follow up: How does that challenge you to treat marriage?

4 TRUTH AND GRACE: Grace – God does not hate the divorced! *God is always on the side of the wounded.* How does it make you feel knowing that God does not hate the divorced? How should that impact your response to people who have been divorced? Follow up: **Read John 8:10-12.** What stands out to you the most about the response Jesus gave this woman who had been “caught” in adultery?

How can you maintain the balance between upholding the biblical standard for marriage and acting with sensitivity and grace?

5 What blessed you the most from Jenni New’s story? If you have been through a divorce, how have you seen God redeem that pain of that experience for His glory? Follow up: If you are married, how could you and your spouse invest in someone else’s marriage? If you are divorced, what is one thing you would want married couples to remember?

6 GRACE AND TRUTH: Truth – Confess the truth about your past. *What does God want you to learn from your failed marriage? What does God want you to own? How would you respond to either of those questions?* Follow up: **Read James 5:13-16.** How have you experienced confessing your sins to others to be healing in your life?

7 GRACE AND TRUTH: Grace – Receive His grace for your future. *God will always hold up the ideal. God will always stoop for those who do not meet it. And that is all of us.* What are some of the barriers that keep you from fully accepting God’s grace and forgiveness? **Read Romans 3:23-24.** How do these words from Paul encourage you to receive God’s grace for your future? Follow up: Are there any “messes” you are still holding on to? Close by praying that all marriages would become better and that all “messes” would be redeemed.

