

Living Connections Bible Study



God's Design for Marriage

Prayer

Text: Genesis 2:18-24

Icebreaker: What is the foundation for a strong nation and for a well ordered society? Why?

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1. What are the three basic institutions established and ordained by God for the order and well being of society:

Matthew 19:4-6

Romans 13:1-2

Matthew 16:18

2. What promise and warning does God give to nations like America? Jeremiah 18:7-10

3. What did Jesus say conditions would be like before His return? Luke 17:26-30

4. What was it like in the days of Noah? Genesis 6:5, 11-13

5. What was it like in the days of Lot?

Genesis 18:20

Genesis 19:4-5, 12-13

“Unless God judges America He is going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

Billy Graham

The sexual revolution that has been growing in momentum for the past 40 years has resulted in the breakdown of the American family. There are millions of Americans living in fornication or going from one sexual partner to the next. 40% of new mothers are unmarried. Many now question marriage all together, asking why get married. This is doing catastrophic harm to our society.

Why Marriage?

*We need to be able to answer the questions, **What is God’s design and plan for men and women with regard to marriage and the family? Why is it important for a man and a woman to make a life-long marriage covenant, for better or worse, to love, honor and cherish for a lifetime?***

6. Who plan was it that marriage is to be a life-long covenant relationship? Matthew 19:4-6

7. What common thread do we find in the following verses? Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6, Mark 10:8, & Ephesians 5:31

8. What is it that God desires a married couple to reflect before the world? Genesis 1:27

9. What purposes do we find for marriage in Genesis 2:18-24?

10. What reason do we find for marriage in 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 and Hebrews 13:4?

11. What positive nurturing environment is created through marriage? Genesis 1:28a

"In three decades of work as a social scientist, I know of few other bodies of data in which the weight of evidence is so decisively on one side of the issue: On the whole, for children, two-parent families are preferable ... If our prevailing views on family structure hinged solely on scholarly evidence, the current debate would never have arisen in the first place."

– David Popenoe, professor of sociology, Rutgers University

"There is a mountain of scientific evidence showing that when families disintegrate, children often end up with intellectual, physical, and emotional scars that persist for life ... We talk about the drug crisis, the education crisis, and the problem of teen pregnancy and juvenile crime. But all these ills trace back predominantly to one source: broken families."

– Karl Zinsmeister, leading researcher on the family

12. Why does God hate divorce? Malachi 2:14-16

13. When God would raise up a nation through whom He would bless the world with the coming of Messiah, what basic institution did he choose to begin with? Genesis 18:18-19

While there are many courageous single moms and dads seeking to raise godly children to be model citizens, God created marriage as the basic building block upon which to construct society. The special and sacred bond shared between husband and wife provides for a stable healthy social structure for society.

14. What does God say about the sexual pleasure, joy, and fulfillment He intends for us to experience in marriage? Proverbs 5:15-20

15. What great risk do people take when they have sex outside of marriage?
Proverbs 7:21-23, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Romans 1: 24-32

The only safe sex is married sex with a spouse who has kept his/her body as a marriage gift just for you and no one else.

Think about it this week: Read Ephesians 5:21-33

The Christian marriage is to be an illustration of the relationship between Christ and His church. Just as Jesus loved and laid down His life for us, so a husband is to lay down his life for his wife and children. He leads by serving. And just as the Church loves and serves Christ, so a wife is to graciously submit to her husband's headship. A husband and wife are to serve and love each other unconditionally. I am to put my spouse's needs before my own, and lay down our lives for one another. The Christian home should be a little foretaste of Heaven on earth, an oasis in the wilderness, and a safe and nurturing environment for children and grandchildren. As a Christian couple will you aspire to grow more and more in oneness to reflect the glory and image of God before the world?