

What does the Bible say about BEING Married?

We will survey the various Bible Passages related to Marriage and discuss a variety of topics related to Married life, including: the Marriage Triangle, five ways of loving, knowing one another, differences, Love Talk and communication skills, needs and expectations, stress and change, anger, conflict, encouraging, honoring and serving one another, headship and submission, romance and intimacy, confession and forgiveness, children, and the home as a place of ministry.

Key Biblical Passages: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25; 3:1-24; 4:1. Proverbs 24:3,4; Ephesians 5:22-33; I Cor. 7, 13; Song of Solomon, 1 Peter 3:1-12; Proverbs 5:1-23; Hosea; Hebrews 13:1-3; 4,5-6; 1 Tim 5:1-16; Matt 5:27-32; 19:1-15; Luke 16:18; plus plenty of others!

Topics:

Week # 1 – Marriage as God intended it: The Marriage Triangle.

Week # 2 – Why all marriages have problems: the fall and its effects.

Week # 3 – “Knowing” each another in more than a “biblical” sense.

Week # 4 – The five kinds of Loving.

Week # 5 – Love Talk – Let’s Communicate!

Week # 6 – Servanthood – the art of ministering to one another.

Week # 7 – What I need and what I expect!

Week # 8 – Who’s really in charge: Headship and Submission

Week # 9 – How conflict works for a relationship.

Week # 10 – Anger meets Confession and Forgiveness.

Week # 11 – One Flesh? (blush) – Romance and Intimacy (Part 1)

Week # 12 – Keeping the Romance Alive (Part 2)

Week # 13 – Commitment vs. immorality and divorce

Week # 14 – The home and family: God’s place for ministry.

Though a class on marriage, singles are welcome to attend, and will find the class useful in their inter- personal relationships as well.

Class time is extremely valuable, so we will start EXACTLY ON TIME every Sunday!
(Which means come early to set chairs up in a circle)

BEING Married

Our Texts:

Strike the Original Match, by Chuck Swindoll
Love Life for Every Married Couple, Ed Wheat



Suggestions for reading books together:

- Have “His” and “Her” bookmarks. Play Leap Frog if you like
- Have a regular time to read aloud together – taking turns reading to one another – and sharing thoughts as you change readers.
- Use a system of marking in the margins, such as

“Most of the time we do not read together. Since one of us is an early riser and the other a late night person, we each have our quiet times at different hours. We read the same book, same article, but individually. As we read, we mark: A candle means new light. Something we had never noticed before; a fresh thought An Arrow means “this hits me where it hurts. I’m getting nervous, I need to talk.” A question mark means “I don’t understand” Sometimes one of us writes “me” in the margin. We never write “him” or “her”. In matters this delicate, we find it best to extend to each other the dignity to decide what should be shared.”

From Charles and Martha Shedd

- Have different color highlighters or pens for each spouse
- Keep individual journals with reflections on what you have read – noting your insights, questions and things you would like to discuss or pray over.
- Set aside a private time to talk together about what you have read. Preferably one that is relaxed and free of distractions. If necessary, do it walking or shopping together.

There is probably a lot more we would like to cover than we will have time for, so along with Reading “Suggestions” in Strike the Original Match by Chuck Swindoll and Love Life for Every Married Couple by Ed Wheat, there will be plenty of Handouts and some Worksheets for you to utilize as well.

So please get a three ring notebook. One for each of you!

The worksheets are printed in pink for the ladies and blue for the gents.

There is a Website of recommended books on a variety of Marriage topics: <http://www.eldrbarry.net/marriage/marrbks.htm> for you to explore.

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Suggested Reading:

Strike the Original Match, Charles Swindoll - **Love Life for Every Married Couple**, Ed Wheat

Since these two excellent books do not follow the class outline, I have tried to connect relevant chapters to the class topics. Delay in getting one of the books has also meant some shuffling of readings. If you feel more comfortable starting at the beginning and reading to the end of either book, please feel free to do so. Suggestions given under each topic should be read the week preceding the class discussion of the topic.

Week # 1 – Marriage as God intended it: The Marriage Triangle.

Week # 2 – Why all marriages have problems: the fall and its effects.

Week # 3 – “Knowing” each another in more than a “biblical” sense.

Wheat, Chapters 1 - 3

Week # 4 – The five kinds of Loving.

Wheat, Chapters 4 & 5

Week # 5 – Love Talk – Let’s Communicate!

Swindoll, Chapters 1 & 2

Week # 6 – Servanthood – the art of ministering to one another.

Swindoll, Chapters 3 & 4 Wheat, Chapter 13

Week # 7 – What I need and what I expect!

Swindoll Chapter 6 Wheat Chapter 8

Week # 8 – Who’s really in charge: Headship and Submission

Swindoll, Chapter 8 Wheat, Chapter 9

Week # 9 – How conflict works for a relationship.

Swindoll, Chapter 7 Wheat Chapter 10

Week # 10 – Anger meets Confession and Forgiveness.

Wheat, Chapter 14

Week # 11 – One Flesh? (blush) – Romance and Intimacy (Song Part 1)

Swindoll, Chapter 5 Wheat, Chapter 12, Chapter 6

Week # 12 – Keeping the Romance Alive (Song Part 2)

Wheat, Chapters 6 & 7

Week # 13 – Commitment vs. immorality and divorce

Swindoll, Chapters 9, 10 Wheat, Chapter 15

Week # 14 – The home and family: God’s place for ministry.

Swindoll, Chapters 11,12

Christian Marriage Books - Some suggestions

Norman Wright

Teaching at Biola University and Talbot Theological Seminary, he founded and directs Christian Marriage Enrichment and Family Counselling and Enrichment in Santa Ana, California. He has authored many books on Marriage relationships.

- Communication : Key to Your Marriage** by H. Norman Wright (Amazon Price:\$8.99) Paperback - 208 pages Updated edition (July 2000), Regal Books
- Before You Say 'I Do'** : A Marriage Preparation Manual for Couples by Norman H. Wright, Wes Roberts (Contributor) (Amazon Price:\$8.99) Paperback - 96 pages Revised edition (February 1997) Harvest House Publishers, Inc.
- After You Say 'I Do'** by H. Norman Wright (Amazon Price:\$8.99) Paperback - 85 pages Exp&Updtd edition (January 1999) Harvest House Publishers, Inc.
- Holding on to Romance : Keeping Your Marriage Alive and Passionate After the Honeymoon Years Are over** by Norman H. Wright (Amazon Price:\$8.99) Paperback - 235 pages (February 1997) Gospel Light Pubns
- How to Bring Out the Best in Your Spouse** by H. Norman Wright, Gary J. Oliver (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Paperback - 286 pages (January 1997) Vine Books
- How to Encourage the Man in Your Life** by Norman Wright (Amazon Price:\$17.09) Hardcover (January 1998) Word Books
- How to Really Love Your Husband : Love-In-Action Ideas for Everyday** by H. Norman Wright (Amazon Price:\$5.39) Paperback (June 1995) Vine Books
- How to Really Love Your Wife : Love-In-Action Ideas for Everyday** by H. Norman Wright (Amazon Price:\$5.39) Paperback (June 1995) Vine Books
- Raising Kids to Love Jesus : A Biblical Guide for Parents** by H. Norman Wright, Gary J. Oliver (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Paperback - 336 pages (January 1999) Regal Books
- Power of a Parent's Words** by Norman Wright (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Paperback - 248 pages (December 1991) Gospel Light Pubns

Dr. Ed Wheat

A family physician for decades, he is an authority on premarital and marital counseling. His wife, Gaye Wheat, has presented Christian Home seminars with her husband. Now retired, the Love-Life Marriage Seminars continue with Dr. Dow R. Pursley a licensed, professional counselor with the Wheat Clinic in Springdale, Arkansas, and a ruling elder in the PCA.

- Love Life for Every Married Couple** by Ed Wheat (Amazon Price:\$5.39) Mass Market Paperback - 368 pages (December 1996) Zondervan Publishing House
- Intended for Pleasure** by Ed Wheat, Gaye Wheat (Contributor) (Amazon Price:\$15.29) Hardcover - 288 pages 3rd edition (April 1997) Fleming H Revell Co
- How to Save Your Marriage Alone** by Ed Wheat (Amazon Price:\$3.59) Mass Market Paperback - 62 pages (September 1983) Zondervan Publishing House (Two chapters from Love Life)

Gary Smalley

Founder of Today's Family in Phoenix, AZ, teaches seminars throughout North America and is a popular guest speaker for conferences and radio and television programs. He is the coauthor of several books, including **If Only He Knew**, and (with Dr. John Trent) **The Blessing** and **The Hidden Value of a Man**. He is the author of **Joy that Lasts**, and of the tape series **Love Is a Decision**. Gary and his wife, Norma, live in Phoenix. They have a daughter and two sons.

- Making Love Last Forever** by Gary Smalley (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Paperback - 280 pages Workbook edition (October 1997) Word Books
- Hidden Keys to a Loving, Lasting Marriage** by Gary Smalley (Amazon Price:\$9.89) Paperback - 336 pages (July 1993) Zondervan Publishing House
- It Takes Two to Tango : More Than 250 Secrets to Communication, Romance and Intimacy in Marriage** by Gary and Norma Smalley (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Hardcover - 200 pages (April 1, 1998) Focus on the Family Pub

Gary Smalley (cont'd)

- The Key to Your Child's Heart** by Gary Smalley (Amazon Price:\$5.39) Mass Market Paperback Rev&Updtd edition (March 1996) Word Books
- Winning Your Wife Back Before It's Too Late : A Game Plan for Reconciling Your Marriage** by Gary Smalley, Greg Smalley, Deborah Smalley (Amazon Price:\$15.29) Hardcover - 192 pages (June 1999) Thomas Nelson
- Winning Your Husband Back : Before It's Too Late** by Gary Smalley, Greg Smalley (Amazon Price:\$15.29) Hardcover - 168 pages (June 1999) Thomas Nelson
- The Gift of the Blessing/The Gift of Honor; Two Bestselling Works Complete in One Volume** by Gary Smalley (Amazon Price:\$10.79) Hardcover - 464 pages 1st inspir edition (October 1998) Inspirational Pr
- If Only He Knew** by Gary Smalley (for men on women) (Amazon Price:\$5.39) Mass Market Paperback - 224 pages (December 1996) Zondervan Publishing House
- For Better or for Best** by Gary Smalley, Steve Scott (Contributor) (for women on men) (Amazon Price:\$5.50 + \$1.85 special surcharge) Mass Market Paperback Reprint edition (July 1991) Harper Mass Market Paperbacks

Larry Crabb and Dan Allender

Dr. Larry Crabb, a well-known speaker, author of numerous best-selling books including **God of My Father, Finding God,** and **Men and Women,** and Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at Colorado Christian University in Morrison. He lives outside Denver. Dr. Dan Allender, Ph.D is professor of counseling at Western Seminary in Seattle and the president and founder of Wounded Heart Ministries. He maintains a private counseling practice in Seattle and is the author of **The Wounded Heart, Bold Love, Cry of the Soul,** and **Intimate Allies.**

- The Marriage Builder** by Larry Crabb (Amazon Price:\$9.89) Hardcover - 176 pages (June 1992) Zondervan Publishing House
- Men & Women: Understanding the Differences** by Larry Crabb (Amazon.com Price: \$12.99) Hardcover - 240 pages Reprint edition (April 1993) Zondervan Publishing House
- The Personal Touch: Encouraging Others Through Hospitality** by Rachael Crabb, Raeann Hart (Contributor) (Amazon Price:\$7.20) Paperback - 129 pages (February 1991) Navpress
- Encouragement** by Larry Crabb, Dan B. Allender (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Hardcover - 144 pages (May 1990) Zondervan Publishing House
- Understanding Who You Are: What Your Relationships Tell You About Yourself** by Larry Crabb (Amazon Price:\$6.30) Paperback (May 1997) Navpress
- Bold Love** by Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III (Amazon Price: \$) Paperback – 319 pages (1992) Navpress

Clifford and Joyce Penner

A clinical psychologist and therapist, and his wife, a registered nurse; the Penners have a popular counselling and marriage seminar ministry. They have written a number of excellent manuals on sexual intimacy in marriage.

- The Gift of Sex: A Guide To Sexual Fulfillment** by Joyce Penner, Clifford L. Penner (Amazon Price: \$11.69) Paperback - 352 pages (April 1982) Word Books
- Men and Sex : Discovering Greater Love, Passion, & Intimacy With Your Wife** by Clifford L. Penner, Joyce J. Penner (Contributor) (Amazon Price: \$16.19) Hardcover - 224 pages (January 1997) Thomas Nelson - Described as a great gift from a wife to her husband.
- What Every Wife Wants Her Husband to Know about Sex** by Clifford L. Penner, Joyce Penner (Amazon Price: Price: \$5.99 + \$1.85 special surcharge) Paperback (January 1998) Word Books
- Getting Your Sex Life Off to a Great Start : A Guide for Engaged and Newlywed Couples** by Clifford L., Ph.D. Penner, Joyce J., R.N. Penner (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Paperback - (January 1995) Word Books also **52 Ways to Have Fun, Fantastic Sex and Restoring the Pleasure**

Tim LaHaye

Founder and president of Family Life seminars, a national family ministry that organizes seminars throughout the country. He was president and founder of Christian Heritage College and San Diego Unified Christian School System. His wife is active in Christian Politics.

The Act of Marriage by Tim F. LaHaye, Beverly LaHaye (Amazon Price:\$6.29) Mass Market Paperback - 400 pages Updated edition (March 1, 1998) Zondervan Publishing House

The Act of Marriage After 40 : Making Love for Life by Tim F. LaHaye, Beverly LaHaye, Mike Yorkey (Price information not yet available.) Hardcover (September 2000) Zondervan Publishing House (coming)

James Dobson

The founder and chief voice of *Focus on the Family*, this former professor of pediatrics and licensed psychologist has been a popular speaker on topics related to marriage and family life for many years. His books are particularly helpful to parents in dealing with their children.

The New Dare to Discipline by James C. Dobson (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Paperback - 276 pages (June 1996) Tyndale House Pub

The New Hide or Seek : Building Self-Esteem in Your Child by James C. Dobson (Amazon Price:\$15.29) Hardcover - 234 pages 3rd edition (February 1999) Fleming H Revell Co

Dr. James Dobson on Parenting : The Strong-Willed Child : Parenting Isn't for Cowards by James, Dr. Dobson, (Amazon Price: \$12.99) Hardcover - 512 pages (September 1997) Budget Book Service

Love Must Be Tough : Straight Talk by James C. Dobson (Amazon Price:\$13.49) Hardcover - 512 pages (November 1999) Word Books

Preparing for Adulthood by James C. Dobson (Amazon Price:\$8.99) Paperback - 186 pages Updated edition (July 1999) Regal Books

What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women by James C. Dobson (Amazon Price:\$5.39) Mass Market Paperback - 192 pages Reissue edition (November 1988) Tyndale House Pub

Miscellaneous Writers

Heart Connections : Growing Intimacy in Your Marriage and Family by Gordon MacDonald, Gail MacDonald (Contributor) (Amazon Price:\$9.99 + \$0.85 special surcharge) Paperback - 240 pages Pbk Ed edition (December 1997) Fleming H Revell Co

Strike the Original Match by Charles R. Swindoll (Amazon Price:\$5.39) Mass Market Paperback - 256 pages (April 1990) Tyndale House Pub

The Five Love Languages : How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate by Gary Chapman (Amazon Price: \$11.69) Paperback - 204 pages (October 1992) Northfield Pub. Gary Chapman also has **The Five Love Languages of Teenagers** and **The Five Love Languages of Children**.

Open Heart, Open Home : The Hospitable Way to Make Others Feel Welcome and Wanted by Karen Burton Mains (Amazon price: \$11.99) Paperback - 208 pages Revised edition (June 1998) Mainstay Church Resources

Hidden Art The Hidden Art of Homemaking by Edith Schaeffer (Amazon price: \$8.99) Paperback - 216 pages (June 1985) Tyndale House Pub

What is a Family? by Edith Schaeffer (Amazon price: \$13.49) Paperback (July 1993)

Help! I'm a Parent (Revised and Expanded Edition) by Bruce Narramore (Amazon Price:\$11.69) Hardcover - 176 pages (February 1995)

Christian Living in the Home by Jay Edward Adams (Amazon price: \$7.19) Paperback Reprint edition (July 1989) Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Company

**All these books can be ordered online at :
<http://www.eldrbarry.net/marriage/marrbks.htm>**