

The People in Your Life: Marriage

Ephesians 5:21-33 2026.11.08

Read Ephesians 5:21-33: Each person share about one of the following questions

- What did you like about this passage?
- What didn't you like or made you uncomfortable about this passage?
- What didn't you understand about this passage?
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus?

Gary Thomas asks, "What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?"

- How does that challenge the way our culture thinks about marriage?
- What might God want to change in you through your marriage rather than simply change about your spouse?
- As you consider your marriage or another important relationship, what is one area where you need God to bring breakthrough in you? What would it look like to trust Him and take a step of obedience this week?

Read Romans 12:1–2. Paul calls us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

- What are some practical ways this kind of sacrificial living should show up in marriage?
- What competing priorities, habits, or desires can keep us from putting our spouse first?

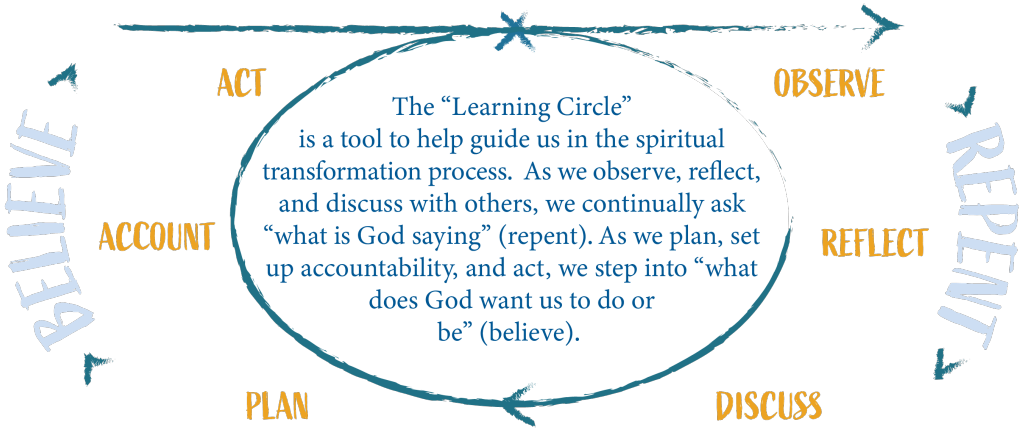
Read Philippians 2:5–8. Jesus didn't wait for others to treat Him well before He loved sacrificially.

- What makes it difficult to go first in loving, serving, respecting, or forgiving someone? You spouse?
- Where might God be calling you to take a step toward loving like Jesus, even when the other person hasn't changed?

What got your attention during the message/discussion this week?

- Why did it get your attention? (Did something made you mad, sad, glad or go hmm?)
- What might God be saying to you about this?
- What might God be saying to do/be about this?
- What ways do you need to step more fully into a true follower of Jesus?

Before you leave, go around and name someone in your life who needs Christ. Spend some time praying for them and for one another.



Message Notes

Prayer Prompts

- Praise God for His perfect design for marriage.
- Ask God how our view of marriage isn't aligned with His design.
- Ask God to change our hearts and minds to better align with His.
- If married, ask God to help us lean into His perfect will for our marriage.
- Pray for the marriages around you, and ask Him how you can support them.