Ready or Knot?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

STUDY GUIDE
CONTENTS

About Scott Kedersha 3

Session 1: What Is the Point of Marriage Anyway? 4

Session 2: Are We Looking to Win or Seeking to Understand? 7

Session 3: How Much Does Our Faith Really Matter? 10

Session 4: What If You Say Tomato and I Say Tomahto? 13

Session 5: Will We Clip Coupons or Max Out Credit Cards? 16

Session 6: Who’s in Charge and What Are Our Biblical Roles? 19

Session 7: How Can We Pursue Emotional Intimacy? 22

Session 8: What Do We Need to Know About Sex? 25

Session 9: Do We Have to Visit Your Parents? 28

Session 10: Are We Roomies for Life or Best Friends? 31

Session 11: None of Their Business or Better Together? 34

Session 12: What About the Kids? 37
Scott Kedersha is the Director of Singles and a pastor to engaged and seriously dating couples at Watermark Community Church in Dallas, Texas. His passion in ministry is to see couples honor the Lord as they move toward engagement and marriage and to fully enjoy the gift of marriage as God has intended. Scott and his wife, Kristen, have four sons.
SESSION 1:
WHAT IS THE POINT OF MARRIAGE ANYWAY?

SCOTT KEDERSHA
This study guide is intended for personal reflection and to help facilitate a discussion. Ideally, you would work through the content with your soon-to-be spouse along with another couple who are helping you through premarital mentoring. The guide will provide questions based on the video session to assist you with diving deeper in this important time.

**OPEN**

Our world’s way of doing relationships is not the place to start when it comes to understanding the purpose of marriage. If you look to Hollywood, relationships are all about feeling. When you love someone, nothing can stand in the way…right? But what happens when those feelings give way to the daily routines of life? If your relationship is built on emotion, what happens when that emotion fades? After all, who wants to willingly spend their life with one person? How could that be worth it? That’s what Scott Kedersha, Director of Marriage Ministry at Watermark Community Church in Dallas, Texas and author of *Ready or Knot?*, helps prospective spouses discover before saying, “I do.”

**VIEW**

**WATCH SESSION 1: WHAT IS THE POINT OF MARRIAGE ANYWAY? (11 MINUTES)**

**REVIEW**

God designed marriage for a particular purpose—one that’s bigger than what we could ever find in a spouse. And following him is what makes marriage beautiful. Prior to watching the video, what would you have described as the purpose of marriage?

How should these three characteristics of marriage shape how you plan for your own marriage? What priorities might you need to change?

Marriage is about becoming “one flesh.” Do the two of you have the same understanding of the purpose of marriage as the one Scott described from the passages above? What do you need to do to prepare yourself as a couple to pursue becoming one flesh after your wedding day?

**READ GENESIS 2:5–9, 18–25; MATTHEW 19:1–12; EPHESIANS 5:21–33.**

Based on these passages, Scott pointed out that they tell us marriage is:

• Created by God as a union between one man and one woman.
• Meant for permanence.
• A picture of God’s love for his church.

How has your perspective about the purpose of marriage changed based on what Scott taught in the video?
God created marriage for something bigger than our personal happiness. When we build our relationship on the foundation he intended, it becomes a picture of his love for us in Christ. How we define marriage will determine how we live it out. God has given us a clear definition for marriage in his Word. Be sure that you and your soon-to-be spouse agree on your vision for marriage, as it will make all the difference.

**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

► **READ**

Read Chapter 1 of *Ready or Knot?* and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

► **UNIFY**

Where do the two of you differ in terms of your understanding of the purpose of marriage? Write down these differences and commit to praying for unity over them as you approach marriage.

► **DREAM**

What do you envision your marriage looking like after your wedding day? Share your long-term dreams for your marriage with one another and talk about what it would look like to build your relationship on them in light of what you learned in this session.
Ready or Knot?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

SESSION 2:
ARE WE LOOKING TO WIN OR SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND?
OPEN

Most of the problems married couples face boil down to miscommunication. It’s an issue every relationship deals with even before you say, “I do.” So we need to learn how to handle communication and conflict in a healthy manner. In this session, Scott will offer some practical tips on how couples can begin communicating in ways that promote positive connection, even in times of conflict.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION 2: ARE WE LOOKING TO WIN OR SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND? (11 MINUTES)

REVIEW

How would you grade your current habits of communication? How would you most like to grow when you think about communicating better?

What are some of the areas of disagreement you have faced as a couple? How well would you say you have resolved conflict in the past? Why?

Marriage provides us with plenty of opportunities to forgive. What makes all the difference is our attitude toward conflict. Are you seeking to win? Or are you seeking to understand? It starts with remembering how God has forgiven us in Christ. He wasn't seeking to win an argument with us, even though he could have. Instead, God sent his Son into this world to take our place on the cross. As you continue taking steps toward your marriage, make a commitment to be the kind of person who loves your spouse as God has loved you in Christ.

Scott listed five “non-negotiables” for healthy communication and conflict:

- Seek to understand, not to win.
- Communicate and resolve conflict in a selfless way.
- Be quick to listen.
- Change the way you view conflict.
- Become an expert in forgiveness.

Which one of the five stands out to you the most? Why? Which do you struggle with the most?
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

► READ

Read Chapter 2 of *Ready or Knot?* and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

► COMMIT

Select one of the “non-negotiables” Scott mentioned and commit to practicing it intentionally over the course of this next week.

► FORGIVE

What disagreements are you holding onto in your relationship? Where is there ongoing tension? Ask the Lord to help you forgive your soon-to-be spouse and surrender your frustrations to your savior today.
Ready or Knot?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

SESSION 3:
HOW MUCH DOES OUR FAITH REALLY MATTER?
OPEN

Spiritual intimacy is just as important to marriage as any other topic we’ll cover in this discussion. Our faith affects everything about us. So you and your potential spouse need to know where you stand in your faith. If marriage is about displaying the gospel, then a husband and wife need to agree on what they believe about the gospel. In this session, Scott is going to talk about some practical ways for couples to begin doing just that.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION THREE: HOW MUCH DOES OUR FAITH REALLY MATTER? (12 MINUTES)

REVIEW

As Scott made clear in the session, Scripture warns us against becoming unequally yoked (2 Cor. 6:14). What that means is that we should not devote our lives in marriage to someone who does not share a saving faith in Christ. If you are currently in an unequally yoked situation, consider working with your mentor or pastor to talk through that before working through the remainder of this course.

How have you been able to share your faith with one another as a couple? What, if any, disagreements do you have in terms of the essentials of your faith?

How does your faith affect the way you approach your relationship today? What are your expectations for how your faith will influence your approach to your marriage?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

READ

Read Chapter 3 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.
SESSION 3: HOW MUCH DOES OUR FAITH REALLY MATTER?

► SERVE

Identify a need around you—whether in your neighborhood, church, or city—and serve together in a way that meets that need. Try to make this a regular practice in your relationship.

► ENCOURAGE

Over the course of this next week, intentionally encourage your soon-to-be spouse with the truth of God’s Word. It might come in the form of speaking into a difficult situation or it could be as simple as sharing a verse that was on your mind. Either way, make an effort to encourage in a Scripture-centered way.
Ready or Knot?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

SESSION 4:
WHAT IF YOU SAY TOMATO AND I SAY TOMAHTO?
OPEN

There are plenty of areas where we can differ from one another. God created each of us uniquely. We have different bodies, emotions, and personalities. And the Bible doesn’t condemn those differences. Instead, it calls us to live together in an understanding way. In this session, Scott is going to discuss five practical ways couples can practice getting to know one another a little better. We can’t live together in an understanding way without going out of our way to know one another.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION FOUR: WHAT IF YOU SAY TOMATO AND I SAY TOMAHTO? (10 MINUTES)

REVIEW

What are some of the differences that have surfaced in your relationship? How have you tended to respond to them up to this point?

We don’t have to be threatened by our differences in marriage. With the right perspective, those differences can make a marriage stronger in the long run. But it starts with learning to live together in an understanding way. It’s easier said than done, but God has created us all uniquely. And that’s a good thing both inside and outside of marriage. Pay attention to how you are different from your potential spouse and make an effort to celebrate those differences today.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

READ

Read Chapter 4 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

LIST

Create a list of questions that the two of you can work through together to better get to know one another. Write down at least five questions each and have fun leaning more about your soon-to-be spouse.

Scott mentioned four practical ways to grow in understanding one another as a couple:

- Be a student of your significant other.
- Don’t hide your differences.
- Embrace your differences.
- Celebrate your differences.

Which of these suggestions can you stand to grow the most in?

- Celebrating differences.
- Embracing differences.
- Not hiding differences.
- Learning from one another.

READ 1 PETER 3:7.

What do you think it would look like for you to live with your soon-to-be spouse in an understanding way? Can you identify any ways in which you might currently fall short of doing so?

- Being patient with one another.
- Communicating openly and honestly.
- Listening to one another.
- Giving one another space when needed.
- Not taking one another for granted.

- Celebrating differences.
- Embracing differences.
- Not hiding differences.
- Learning from one another.

TOPIC: What If You Say "TOMATO" And I Say "TOMAHTO"?

SESSION 4: WHAT IF YOU SAY "TOMATO" AND I SAY "TOMAHTO"?

Ready or Knot?
THANKSGIVING

Write down 2–3 of the primary differences between you and your significant other. Each day this week, start by thanking God for those differences and looking for ways to express that gratitude to your prospective spouse.
Ready or Knot?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

SESSION 5:
WILL WE CLIP COUPONS OR MAX OUT CREDIT CARDS?
OPEN

A lot of people have differences when it comes to the topic of money. It’s a subject that often gets neglected before marriage, but it can become a huge point of conflict if we’re not careful. Financial decisions will follow you wherever you go. So it’s better to talk about your views on money now. In this session, we’ll learn how six simple questions can shed light on each of your views toward money. They’ll save you a lot of stress—and, hopefully, financial difficulty—going forward.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION FIVE: WILL WE CLIP COUPONS OR MAX OUT CREDIT CARDS? (9 MINUTES)

REVIEW

How were you taught to manage money growing up? How would you describe your current approach to money? Frugal? Free?

While each of these questions is important to consider, let’s key in on #2 for a moment as it will have the most immediate impact on your relationship following marriage. What level of financial debt will you bring into your marriage? And how will the two of you approach it?

Of the remaining questions, which one would be the most appropriate for you to start with today?

What will you do to work together on resolving your differences—if you have any—toward money management?

Scott recommended talking through six questions to help mitigate any problems you will face as a couple in regards to your finances:

• What is your financial picture?
• What kind of debt will you bring into your marriage?
• Where does your money go?
• What is your family history with money?
• What is your personal history with money?
• Do you view yourself as an owner or a steward?
In your mind, what does it look like to honor God with your finances?

...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................
...........................................................................................

Talking about money isn’t always easy. All of us have different backgrounds and different ways of approaching the topic. But it’s an important part of becoming one flesh. Lean into this conversation. Make sure you understand each other’s expectations about money so that you don’t run into any surprises down the road. Starting the conversation now will help you form a healthy habit that you can take with you into marriage.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

► READ

Read Chapter 5 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

► PLAN

Talk to a mentor or another couple you trust and begin to plan out what your budget will look like after your wedding day. Practice strategizing how you will steward the finances God has given you for his glory.

► ANSWER

Pick one of the six questions Scott mentioned in the session and take the time to work through it with your soon-to-be spouse. Practice patience and grace throughout the conversation.
SESSION 6:
WHO'S IN CHARGE AND WHAT ARE OUR BIBLICAL ROLES?

SCOTT KEDERSHA
OPEN

Biblical roles in marriage can be controversial. When we begin asking questions like, “Who gets the final say?” and “Who leads?” or “Who follows?” the discussion can get heated. Scott will explain different views to give you an idea of the options, but the goal in this conversation is unity. It’s not about deciding who gets the power, but to help you talk about how to foster unity in your relationship. Keep that in mind as we talk through this material. Everyone comes into this conversation with a different background, sometimes with a lot of baggage. Let’s be gracious with one another and pursue God’s truth together. The reason we’re doing this is to build a marriage that glorifies Christ.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION SIX: WHO’S IN CHARGE AND WHAT ARE OUR BIBLICAL ROLES? (11 MINUTES)

REVIEW

Scott described three primary views when it comes to the topic of biblical roles:

• Traditional
• Egalitarian
• Transitional

Which of the views best describes your view of biblical roles? Why?

What objections do you have toward the idea of biblical roles in marriage? What fears or wounds do you have based on how biblical roles have been portrayed in your past?

What are your expectations in terms of roles for your soon-to-be spouse? What do you think of their expectations for you?

Based on the view you have adopted toward biblical roles, what can you personally do to work at becoming the person God calls you to before your marriage?
It’s easy to pin a topic like biblical roles on our potential spouse instead of taking the time to think about whether we are living the way God has called us to live. It begins with you. We all have to take a hard look at ourselves first in order to come into this conversation with humility. Marriage is about unity. It’s about becoming one flesh. We can’t do that when we treat the relationship like an org chart. So men, work at becoming the kind of husband who will love his wife well. And women, work at becoming the kind of wife who will love her husband well.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

▸ READ

Read Chapter 6 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

▸ APOLOGIZE

Discussing biblical roles often carries with it a lot of baggage. If you have said or done anything to wound your soon-to-be spouse based on what you believe about biblical roles, apologize and ask for forgiveness for your behavior. And strive to be more gracious as a result.

▸ GROW

In the time remaining before your wedding day, pick 1–2 ways that you need to grow as a future husband/wife and daily ask the Lord to help you become the spouse he has called you to be.
SESSION 7:
HOW CAN WE PURSUE EMOTIONAL INTIMACY?
OPEN

We’ve already talked about spiritual intimacy, but now we’re going to look at emotional intimacy. It can be easy to fall into routines and get complacent in marriage, and it’s easy lose emotional intimacy. Now is a perfect time to talk through some strategies that will help you continue pursuing each other emotionally. It doesn’t always look like constant deep conversations or incessant dates. It can be as simple as just digging a little below the surface. But it always requires intentionality. In this session, we’re going to learn some ways we can start to practice pursuing emotional intimacy today.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION SEVEN: HOW CAN WE PURSUE EMOTIONAL INTIMACY? (10 MINUTES)

REVIEW

As Scott pointed out in the session, Genesis 2:25 doesn’t merely refer to physical nakedness. It’s also describing being known internally. In the beginning, Adam and Eve were able to stand before one another fully unclothed and unashamed. That’s how we were all intended to exist with one another before the Fall.

Scott mentioned that wanting people to like us is one of the primary ways shame can keep us from emotional intimacy. **How does that desire manifest itself in your relationship?**

What do you experience the most shame about personally? Have you been able to discuss it with your soon-to-be spouse?

How could the truth of the gospel—that God loves you despite you in Christ—remove shame from your relationship? What can you do to better model God’s love for you toward your prospective spouse in this way?

No one knows the challenges you face better than you. But emotional intimacy means inviting your soon-to-be spouse into those challenges with you. That’s not always easy and it requires a lot of vulnerability, but you’ll be thankful for it in the end. Bringing secrets into marriage never ends well, even when they’re small. Becoming one flesh means knowing one another inside and out. Do you share your dreams? Your struggles? Your challenges? If not, take a step in that direction today.
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

▸ READ

Read Chapter 7 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

▸ CONFRONT

As you consider the areas of your life you fear being rejected if someone knows about them, commit to confronting them with the truth of the gospel. Don't carry secrets into marriage. Bring them to light before God and before your significant other. And practice grace with one another throughout this process.

▸ PRAY

Ask your significant other for 2–3 specific things they would like you to pray about for them. Begin each day this week praying over those requests and actively look for God to answer those prayers.
SESSION 8:
WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

Ready or Knot?
OPEN

Our world is pretty confused about sex. It encourages us in all kinds of directions, most of them the exact opposite of what God teaches in his Word. And like some of the other topics we’ve covered, we all enter marriage with very different experiences with sex. So as we talk about it in this session, remember that God is gracious no matter where you’ve been or what you’ve done. If you haven’t lived up to God’s design in the past, let’s talk about that. But let’s do so remembering God’s love and the forgiveness we have in Christ.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION EIGHT: WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX? (10 MINUTES)

REVIEW

What kinds of boundaries do you have in place to pursue purity as a couple prior to marriage?

Who is a trusted leader or mentor you could sit down with to help you have this conversation with one another?

Has your relationship reflected a commitment to God’s design? What are some ways you can improve your commitment to purity as you approach marriage?

As Scott mentioned during the session, all of us come into marriage with certain pain, fear, or anxiety about sex. What are your fears, wounds, or anxieties as it relates to sexual intimacy? Have you been able to talk through that as a couple?

God calls us all to purity. And it’s not because he’s trying to make our lives miserable. It’s actually the exact opposite. He designed the world—and sex—to work in a particular way. Pursuing purity in this area leads us into the joy that he created it to give. We all have certain fears and anxieties when it comes to sex. It’s important to talk about those together. Do so in a way that honors God before marriage knowing that he is leading you into joy.
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

▸ READ

Read Chapter 8 of *Ready or Knot?* and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

▸ APOLOGIZE

If there have been times in your relationship wherever you have not pursued purity with your significant other, apologize and ask for forgiveness. Commit to prizing your soon-to-be spouse in a way that respects God’s design as you approach marriage together.

▸ CONFESS

If you are harboring any secret sexual sin, bring that to light. Bringing secret sin into marriage can never result in a healthy relationship. Confessing may be painful, but it will lead you to life.

▸ COMMIT

If the two of you are struggling to remain pure sexually, set some clear boundaries that will help you pursue marriage faithfully. As you do, tell another couple about your boundaries and ask them to help keep you accountable to them.
SESSION 9:
DO WE HAVE TO VISIT YOUR PARENTS?
OPEN

We're going to zoom out a bit and talk about something we have to deal with outside of the home—in-laws. We've all heard a horror story or two about troubles with a spouse’s family, but hopefully you've also heard examples of these kinds of relationships that function well. Pursuing health with your soon-to-be spouse’s family doesn’t have to wait until marriage. It can start right now.

In this session, Scott is going to share five principles that will help you better relate to your future in-laws and the rest of your spouse’s family. We’re called as Christians to love our spouse well, but we also have a responsibility to love his or her family well.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION NINE: DO I HAVE TO VISIT YOUR PARENTS? (10 MINUTES)

REVIEW

How would you characterize your current relationship with your soon-to-be spouse’s family?

Based on what you learned in this session, what practical steps will you take toward building a positive relationship with your soon-to-be spouse’s family moving forward?

How well do the two of you communicate with one another about each other’s family? Are you able to be open and honest about any ways in which you struggle with those relationships?

Any time we’re dealing with relational conflict, the easy answer is to blame the other person. But many times, it starts with us. That’s true for relationships with in-laws as well. Are you living in a way that puts stress on your relationship with your potential spouse’s family? One way or another, change begins with you. You don’t have to settle for tension with family. Be bold and take the first step toward living peaceably however you can.

Scott shared five principles to keep in mind when it comes to relationships with your future in-laws:

- Don’t choose sides.
- Your significant other takes priority.
- Communicate the way you want to be communicated with.
- Do whatever you can to live in peace and unity.
- Discuss holidays with your significant other and both sets of parents.

In what ways might you be contributing to any of the tensions you experience with your soon-to-be in-laws? How might a conversation, like the one Scott described having with his mother-in-law, change that relationship for the better?
SESSION 9: DO I HAVE TO VISIT YOUR PARENTS?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

▶ READ

Read Chapter 9 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

▶ SURRENDER

If you identified any lingering bitterness toward your future in-laws as a result of this session, surrender those to the Lord. Ask that he would remove that bitterness and replace it with a deep love for them.

▶ ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

Have you behaved in any ways that have contributed to tensions in your relationship with your future in-laws? Set up a time to meet with them and apologize. Ask for their forgiveness and commit to loving them as God has loved you in Christ.
SESSION 10:
ARE WE ROOMIES FOR LIFE OR BEST FRIENDS?

SCOTT KEDERSHA
OPEN

As we’ve said before, marriage is about becoming one flesh. Part of that means having a deep friendship with one another. That’s what this session is all about. The topic of friendship will help you see what you are basing your relationship on. And Scott is going to walk through five ways you can grow in your friendship right now.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION TEN:
ARE WE ROOMIES FOR LIFE OR BEST FRIENDS? (9 MINUTES)

REVIEW

Depending on how far along you are in your relationship right now, this conversation might seem silly to you. When emotions are high in the early stages of dating and engagement, it can be difficult to see how those feelings would ever fade. And that’s a good place to be because it means you can begin cultivating healthy habits now so that you’re ready when that day comes.

How well would you say you pursue one another in terms of friendship?

Scott offered five tips for growing in your relationship as a couple:

- Find your silly side.
- Be intentional about building your friendship.
- Go on dates with one another.
- Find a shared hobby.
- Live on mission together.

Of the five applications Scott shared, which would you say you have the greatest room for growth in your relationship?

What is a practical way you can practice friendship with your soon-to-be spouse over the next week?

It’s called a “honeymoon phase” for a reason—it’s a phase. Eventually, the feelings you had at the beginning of your relationship will fade. And without a strong friendship, it can be easy to drift apart. Friendship helps keep those fun feelings alive. Instead of fading away altogether, they change and mature into an even deeper love. Find ways to have fun with one another. Be silly. Be adventurous. And live on mission with one another for God’s glory.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

READ

Read Chapter 10 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

LIST

Together, make a list of at least ten ideas for dates. Be creative and dream together a little. Then check off at least one of them over the course of the next week.
SERVE

Find an opportunity where the two of you can serve together. Maybe it’s volunteering at your church or a local food bank. Whatever it turns out to be, practice living on mission together.
Ready or Knot?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

SESSION 11:
NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS OR BETTER TOGETHER?
OPEN

Friendship in marriage is important, but so are friendships outside of marriage. We all need community, but we all have different ideas of what that should look like. Some of us naturally gravitate toward a lot of different relationships. Others of us prefer isolation. As a couple, it’s important to find a balance between the two. You’ll need community along the way. So we’re going to talk about what that looks like and help set some goals about how you’ll pursue community in marriage.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION ELEVEN:
NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS OR BETTER TOGETHER? (11 MINUTES)

REVIEW

When it comes to community, which are you—the one who gravitates toward a lot of relationships? Or one who prefers isolation?

How does your preference in friendships affect the way you and your soon-to-be spouse enjoy community with others? How might it affect your friendships long-term once you’re married?

Who in your life have you invited to challenge you in your future marriage?

How do you invite others in to speak into your life in meaningful ways? How could you continue to grow in this area?

God created us with a need for people. And life is better with them. None of us can get through life without the love and support of others. What does community look like in your life? Are you surrounding yourselves as a couple with people who know you well? Inviting people in may mean tough conversations at times. They might challenge you and keep you accountable, but that’s what true friends do. Make sure you’re inviting them in.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

➢ READ

Read Chapter 11 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.

➢ HOST

Practice hospitality by hosting some friends at one of your homes. It could be anything from a game night to a movie watching party. The point is simply to invite people into your lives as a couple.
SEEK COUNSEL

Have you avoided tough conversations others have tried to have with you about your relationship? You need people in your life who are willing to tell you the truth, even when it hurts. Be bold and make time to listen if that’s a conversation you need to hear.
Ready or Knot?

SCOTT KEDERSHA

SESSION 12:
WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?
OPEN

Before we bring this course to a close, we’re going to talk about kids. Beginning a family is a big step in marriage, but a beautiful one as well. Children are a blessing from God, but it’s important to talk about our expectations for kids before they ever arrive. Scott is going to walk through eight questions that will help you get a solid understanding of your partner’s perspective toward kids. Not only will it help you have healthy expectations before marriage, but these will also be questions that you can return to down the road for further conversation.

VIEW

WATCH SESSION TWELVE: WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS? (14 MINUTES)

REVIEW

At this point in your relationship, have you been able to talk with one another about your expectations for kids? Why or why not?

What conversations have you had about birth control? Have you researched the various options and been able to agree upon which method—if any—you prefer?

Based on what you learned in this session, what do you need to talk about as a couple related to family planning? Who can you reach out to that can help guide the two of you in that conversation?

Children are a blessing from God, but they are not a guarantee for every marriage. Talking through your expectations for kids and parenting can be an important opportunity to grow in intimacy with one another. It’s also a great chance to surrender your future to God and whatever plans he has for you. Marriage is a picture of God’s love. When husbands and wives love one another the way God created them to, the world gets to see the gospel on display. That’s why these conversations are worth it. Marriage is about more than us. And thank God for that.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Select an activity from the list below to begin applying the lessons of this session to your relationship.

READ

Read Chapter 12 of Ready or Knot? and talk through any additional illustrations or teachings that will help you grow together in the area of your relationship covered in this session.
SESSION 12: WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

▶ PLAN

Set aside some time over the next week to talk through the different options for birth control. Make sure the two of you agree on how you want to approach family planning. If that conversation is one that’s too intimate for the two of you to have alone, schedule time with another couple to talk through it in community.

▶ PRAY

If the two of you have differences about your expectations for family after marriage, commit to praying for those with one another. Ask that God would give you unity, even if that means your expectations change as a result.