

Week 1: Marriage

We want to get marriage right, but figuring out how to do that is a complex and often mysterious process. Paul agreed, and he suggested an interesting solution to getting marriage right today so we can experience what we actually desire tomorrow. The secret? Not trying to get the marriage right.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Who has the healthiest marriage you've seen? What makes their marriage a good example?
- 2. Whatever your relationship status, how does this season compare to how you anticipated it would be? What is better than you anticipated? What is more challenging?
- 3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1–16; 25–39, where the apostle Paul talks about marriage and singleness.
 - Why do you think Paul encouraged those who were single to remain so?
 - What do you think about the reasons Paul suggests for getting married?
 - What idea in this passage is most challenging for you?
- 4. Paul seems to suggest that the best marriage advice is to focus on something more important than the marriage—namely, Jesus. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- 5. In the message, Gavin suggested that it's almost impossible to love unconditionally if you don't feel unconditionally loved. If you felt secure in Jesus' unconditional love for you, how might that affect your ability to express unconditional love for your spouse (or others around you)?

Moving Forward

When we get it right, marriage is an earthly reflection of an eternal relationship. It is intended to reflect God's love *for* you and to flow from God's love *in* you. When we get it wrong, focusing on marriage can actually become an obstacle to our relationship with God. Where is your attention focused?