

# Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage Bible Study



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*Building Great Marriages & Families...from Generation to Generation*

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# Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage Bible Study

## INTRODUCTION

This Bible study will help married couples review some of the major relational issues that every couple faces. I encourage you to use it in two ways. First, as a couple you can work through the study over a period of four weeks. Pick a day of the week when you will set aside about 60 minutes for discussing the Bible study and how it relates to your marriage. You may want to plan it around a night out or a morning or evening at home. Feel free to expand your discussion beyond the particular questions and Bible verses. It is my hope that this Bible study will stimulate your thinking in building a stronger marriage.

Secondly, you can use the Bible study with other couples. Studying with others is a very enriching and rewarding experience. You get to share in the wealth of insight a small group provides. This group may meet weekly, every other week, or monthly to discuss the studies. Here is a suggested format:

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Sharing Question** – Some suggested questions are listed below:
  - ⇒ How many years have you been married and how did you meet?
  - ⇒ What other married couple influenced you the most in the first five years of your marriage?
  - ⇒ If you could choose another vocation, what would it be and why would it be attractive to you?
  - ⇒ Tell about a gift your spouse gave you. Why was it special?
- **Bible Study** – Allow at least 50 minutes for this part. When discussion and interest are high, you may take more than one session for each lesson.
- **Prayer Time** – Ask each person to share a prayer request that relates to them. It is better in this study to focus on the needs present in the room than on people outside the group. Encourage group members to write down these requests and pray for them until the next meeting. At each meeting, before giving new prayer requests, ask participants to share any answers to their previous requests. Conduct the prayer time according to what your group prefers. This may include going around the circle, choosing one person to pray a general closing prayer, or divide into smaller groups for the prayer time.

A successful small group Bible study must have some general guidelines. Here are few that I have found helpful:

- Set a definite beginning and ending time. Adhere to that schedule for the sake of those who have baby sitters and other commitments.
- Limit the size of the group to 12 people. This will enhance everyone's ability to participate.

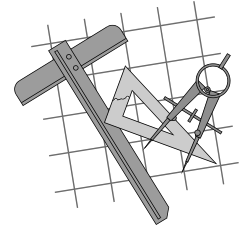
- Encourage group members to attend each of the sessions unless prevented by sickness or some other unpreventable event. It is their responsibility to call the group leaders if they are unable to come.
- Refreshments may be served at the beginning or end of the study. You may decide not to have any refreshments other than a beverage. Do not let refreshments become a big issue.
- Encourage members to share nothing about their marriages that will embarrass their mates.
- Group members may "pass" on any question they do not want to answer.
- To protect the integrity of the group, do not discuss with other people what group members share in the Bible study unless you have their permission.
- Any issues of concern that may create relational conflicts within the group should be brought to the attention of the group leaders before they are discussed in the group.
- This Bible study is designed to be a group effort in discovering what the Bible teaches about these marital issues. Therefore, it is not necessary to have a lecture on the topics. The group leader(s) should encourage everyone to participate in seeking biblical truth and sharing what they discover. When questions are raised, the group leader(s) should not feel they have to have all the answers. Ask others in the group what they think.
- It is not necessary to agree with everyone and some ideas may have to be challenged if they are not well-grounded in the Bible. When doctrinal issues arise, you may want to speak with your pastor for any clarifications.

I hope you will find this Bible study a blessing to your marriage. Because this is a work in progress (just like our marriages!), I would appreciate any feedback you may have about the study. Please write me at the following address:

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# Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage

## Bible Study #1: “The Foundation Of Oneness”



### Two Become One

1. What purposes for your marriage are suggested in Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:18-25?
2. Using the concepts from Matthew 19:5-6 and Ephesians 5:31-32, discuss what you think “two shall become one” means.
3. Why is adultery a violation of the “two shall become one” concept? Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.

### Let’s Walk Together - Read Ephesians 4:1-3

1. What are the key thoughts in these verses as they relate to marital oneness?

2. Explain what you understand the following terms to mean:

“humble” \_\_\_\_\_ “gentle” \_\_\_\_\_

“patient” \_\_\_\_\_ “bearing with one another” \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do the following verses communicate about oneness in marriage?

Proverbs 20:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 24:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:17 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the practical implications of Colossians 3:12-14 on the marriage relationship?

5. If you and your spouse followed the counsel of the Bible passages you have studied, what would be the practical results in your daily lives? How would your relationship be different?

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