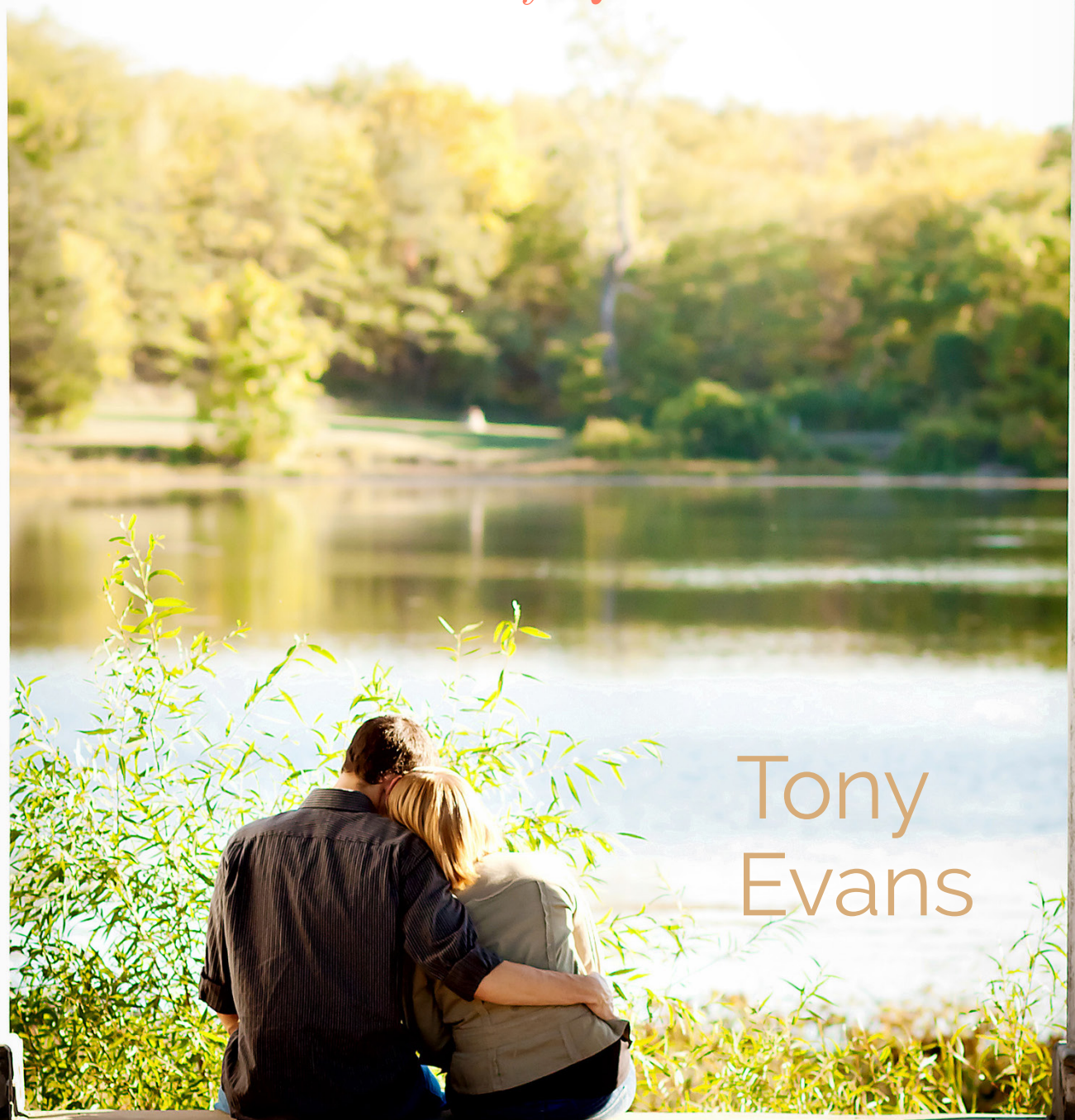


Marriage Matters

Bible Study Questions

Tony
Evans



The Role of the Savior

Bible Study Lesson #1



Getting Connected - Intro

Introduce yourselves as a couple by telling the class one of the following things about your relationship (talk briefly with your spouse to decide what to share):

- When and where you met
- Your favorite get-a-way spot
- A hobby or activity that you enjoy doing together

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, each spouse share with the other your favorite movie or love story. Tell why you made that choice.

(Privately)

Husbands:

1. Memorize: Galatians 2:20
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for a husband to be his wife's savior. He expresses that the key to this happening is the concept of dying to self.
3. In what specific ways have you modeled the concept of dying to self in your marriage? List a few ways.
4. What challenges or obstacles exist in your marriage that make it difficult for you to carry out your role as your wife's savior?
5. How can these challenges and obstacles be overcome?
6. What can your wife do to assist you as you strive to die to self and overcome selfishness in your marriage?

Wives:

1. Memorize: Galatians 2:20
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for a husband to be his wife's savior. He expresses that the key to this happening is the concept of dying to self.
3. In what specific ways has the concept of dying to self been modeled by your husband? List a few ways.

4. What challenges or obstacles exist that make it difficult for your husband to carry out his role as your savior?

5. How can these challenges and obstacles be overcome?

6. What can you do to assist your husband as he strives to die to self and overcome selfishness in your marriage?

(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.



The Role of the Sanctifier

Bible Study Lesson #2



Getting Connected - So Special

Many families have special rooms or special items that are set aside for use only when special guests visit (such as china or dishes, towels, living room area). Think about someone you know who had (or currently still has) a special room or items that were used only when special guest(s) arrived.

With your group or spouse share:

- What was the room or item?
- What process did the family take prior to the arrival of the special guest(s)?
- Who were the special guest(s) that were privileged to use the room or item?
- Tell two or three characteristics about the special guest(s) that made them so special.
- How did the family members treat the special guest(s)?

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from Lesson 1.

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, think about a time when you savored a certain snack, dessert, or treat so much that you put it aside secretly to make sure you had a chance to enjoy it. Share the secret with your spouse.

(Privately)

Husbands:

1. Memorize: 2 Timothy 2:15
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for a husband to be his wife's sanctifier. He says that the wife's sanctification is tied to the husband's spiritual leadership as pastor of his home.
3. Pastors are in tune with the needs of those whom they lead. What are the greatest needs of your wife at this time?
4. Pastors give guidance and spiritual insight to those whom they lead. Does your wife look to you for guidance and spiritual insight?
5. Pastors pray for and pray with those whom they lead. They also open the Word of God with them regularly. How often are prayer and devotions occurring together in your marriage?
6. Being the pastor is a challenging task, sometimes made even more difficult by those whom the pastor leads. What challenges do you face in your role as the pastor of your home? How can your wife help you as you lead?

Wives:

1. Memorize: 2 Timothy 2:15
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for a husband to be his wife's sanctifier. He says that the wife's sanctification is tied to the husband's spiritual leadership as pastor of his home.
3. Pastors are in tune with the needs of those whom they lead. Does your husband know your greatest needs at this time?
4. Pastors give guidance and spiritual insight to those whom they lead. Do you look to your husband for guidance and spiritual insight?
5. Pastors pray for and pray with those whom they lead. They also open the Word of God with them regularly. How often are prayer and devotions occurring together in your marriage?
6. Being the pastor is a challenging task, sometimes made even more difficult by those whom the pastor leads. What challenges does your husband face as the pastor of your home? How can you help him as he leads?

(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.

Becoming Your Wife's Satisfier

Bible Study Lesson #3



Getting Connected - Pleasing Others

Briefly describe something you did or something you were a part of over the past year that pleased either a member of your family, your boss at work, or your community at church. Tell how it felt to know that others were pleased with your efforts.

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from Lesson 2:

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, think about a time when you sacrificed your own interests for the benefit of a stranger. It could be giving up a parking spot or your place in line. Share with your spouse what the sacrifice was then tell why you did it.

(Privately)

Husbands:

1. Memorize: 1 Peter 3:7
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for a husband to be his wife's satisfier. He says that when a husband seeks to satisfy his wife, it involves him sacrificially meeting her needs.
3. Jesus taught and modeled the principle of servant leadership. Take a sheet of paper, as Dr. Evans suggests, and divide it down the middle. Put "husband" on one side and "wife" on the other. List the ways that each person serves the other.
4. Revisit the five ways of nourishment on pages 45-47. Identify from the list the way(s) your wife likes to be nourished and cherished.

5. Now identify from the list the way(s) you like to be encouraged and shown respect.
6. What typically happens when you or your spouse are not getting the things you desire?

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(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.

The Skill of Submission

Bible Study Lesson #4



Getting Connected

An acrostic poem is a poem in which the letters of a word (usually set vertically) are used to describe an idea or a motto. Write the word “submit” vertically. Create a short acrostic poem about the word “submit” that describes the message our culture sends about submission. Discuss the poem.

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from the last lesson:

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

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“Heart 2 Heart”

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, tell your spouse about your favorite childhood game. What were some of the guidelines for playing the game? What did you enjoy most about participating in it?

(Privately)

Husbands:

1. Memorize: Proverbs 25:11
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for wives to exercise the skill of submission to their husbands. He explains that submission means that the wife lines up underneath her husband’s leadership as a voluntary act of her will.
3. Who usually makes most of the major decisions in your marriage?
4. Is your wife’s input considered when major decisions are being made?

5. What decisions, major or minor, are you facing at this time that you earnestly need your wife's encouragement and support?
6. How can she respect you more in your role of leadership?

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4. Does your husband consider your input when major decisions are being made?
5. What decisions, major or minor, is your husband facing at this time that he earnestly needs your encouragement and support?
6. How can you respect your husband more in his role of leadership?

(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.

The Sweetness of Seduction

Bible Study Lesson #5



Getting Connected - Blowing Your Mind

Have each participant take one coin (penny or nickel) Look at the year on the face of the coin and observe the last digit. Then have each participant tell the group that many qualities that they find attractive or pleasing in their spouse. (Example: Someone draws 1991. With the last digit being 1, this person will share one thing. If someone draws a coin with the last digit ending with a 0, i.e. 2000, then that person will share 10 things).

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from the last lesson:

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, share with your spouse the most amazing arts and craft project you've ever created. If you're not very artistic, don't sweat it. Talk about something you created in art class back in grade school. Tell what was difficult about the project. Tell what was easy.

(Privately)

Husbands:

1. Memorize: Proverbs 31:26
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for wives to adorn themselves not only with external beauty but also with the inner beauty of submission and respect. He says that she does this by allowing God to transform her as she honors and encourages her husband.
3. How has God transformed your marriage or is transforming your marriage as it relates to your wife honoring your leadership? Give specific examples if possible.

4. What challenges still exist that makes it difficult for your wife to honor your leadership in your marriage?
5. How can you help overcome these challenges? How can she help?
6. What effect would it have on your marriage if she encouraged you more and honored your leadership increasingly more?

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5. How can you help overcome these challenges? How can he help?
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(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.

The Sanctity of Surrender

Bible Study Lesson #6



Getting Connected

Name someone you know who is wise or someone who has encouraged you. Tell about a time in the past that their wisdom benefited you or their words encouraged you.

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from the last lesson:

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, share with your spouse a situation you faced in the past that you were unable to change but you prayed about it, and prayer made a difference. Talk about that experience.

(Privately)

Husbands:

1. Memorize: Hebrews 11:6
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for wives to actively surrender their will to their husbands' leadership out of reverence for Christ. He says surrendering is not optional, even when there are differences of opinions and the wife has a valid point. He points out that surrendering entails a wife honoring her husband's position as head of the home in order to accomplish a common program.
3. Who are the spiritually mature men that you turn to for wise counsel when it comes to marriage?
4. What valuable insight have they shared with you in the past?

5. How did you apply what you learned?

6. What do you believe is God's purpose for your marriage?

7. How has your trust or lack of trust affected His purpose? What changes can you make to further His purpose for your marriage?

Wives:

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2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans calls for wives to actively surrender their will to their husbands' leadership out of reverence for Christ. He says surrendering is not optional, even when there are differences of opinions and the wife has a valid point. He points out that surrendering entails a wife honoring her husband's position as head of the home in order to accomplish a common program.

3. Who are the spiritually mature women that you turn to for wise counsel when it comes to marriage?

4. What valuable insight have they shared with you in the past?

5. How did you apply what you learned?

6. What do you believe is God's purpose for your marriage?

7. How has your trust or lack of trust affected His purpose? What changes can you make to further His purpose for your marriage?

(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.

Transcendence: The Foundation of Marriage

Bible Study Lesson #7



Getting Connected - The Two Shall Become One

The ladies should take a small piece of pink clay. The men should take a small piece of blue clay. The ladies should reshape their pink clay to create the first letter in her first name. The men should reshape their blue clay to create the first letter in his name. Each person should think of a positive attribute about themselves that begins with the letter that they shaped. Share your attribute. After everyone has shared, have each husband combine his blue clay with his wife's pink clay.

After all participants have combined their clay, try separating the pink from the blue. How is this activity similar to marriage?

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from the last lesson:

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, talk with your spouse about the first time you can recall having authority over something. Perhaps you were in charge when your parents were not home or you were in charge of a project, perhaps at school. What do you remember about the experience?

(Privately)

1. Memorize: Ecclesiastes 4:9
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans examines the first facet of the marriage covenant called transcendence. He explains that transcendence simply means that God is in charge, although He has placed man as His agent on earth. As God's agent, man is to carry out His desires in history. Dr. Evans says that marriage is designed to strengthen the capacity of each partner to rule the sphere where God has placed them.

3. What is your spouse's greatest strength? What is your greatest strength?

4. What is your spouse's growth area or area needing improvement? What is yours?

5. Name two things that you and your spouse do well together.

6. What are two things that you and your spouse struggle to do together?

7. How can you capitalize more on the things you do well?

8. How can you improve upon your teamwork when faced with those things that you struggle to do well together?

(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.

Hierarchy: The Order of Marriage

Bible Study Lesson #8



Getting Connected - Reverse the Order, Using the Right Tools

As a group, list five to six tools that are used to build a house. Of that list, which tool would you want to be and why?

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from the last lesson:

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, have a discussion with your spouse about chores. Which chores did you dread doing most as a child? Which chores were not cumbersome at all for you to complete? Tell why.

(Privately)

1. Memorize: 1 Corinthians 11:11
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans analyzes the second facet of the marriage covenant called hierarchy. He states that a hierarchy is a chain of command. It is an order that functions within a particular alignment. In marriage it involves aligning our thoughts, our actions, our decisions, and our leadership underneath the overarching viewpoint and authority of God.
3. What task(s) or assignment(s) do you deem non-negotiable when it comes to you completing them in your home?
4. Are there any task(s) or assignment(s) that you are currently completing that you believe you should not be completing?

5. What area(s) in your marriage do you feel your spouse is struggling to bring into proper alignment?

6. What area(s) in your marriage do you feel you are personally struggling to bring into proper alignment?

7. What can each spouse do to assist the other to become properly aligned?

(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.



Ethics: The Operation of Marriage

Bible Study Lesson #9



Getting Connected

What appliance do you use most often at home? How can that appliance be used symbolically to describe a good marriage?

NOTE: Before moving into the lesson, briefly discuss Heart 2 Heart (homework) from the last lesson:

- What did God teach you about Himself?
- What did God teach you about yourself?
- What did you apply and how are you growing?

Save the Date

Talk with your spouse and choose a good day and time that will allow you to spend some quality time together discussing what you've learned and completing the "Heart 2 Heart" activity. Save the date on your calendars and commit to keeping it.

"Heart 2 Heart"

(Together)

Begin your date time by praying together. While praying, thank God for the quality time you are about to spend and ask Him to bless your time together. After prayer, share with your spouse about a time or situation when you failed to follow instructions. What were the results of that situation? What lesson did you learn?

(Privately)

1. Memorize: Ephesians 5:33
2. Reflect: In this section, Dr. Evans describes the third facet of the marriage covenant. It's called Ethics: the Operation of Marriage. He explains that ethics involves three interdependent elements: rules, sanctions, and continuity. He challenges couples to commit themselves to God and function within the parameters of His divinely orchestrated covenant.
3. The first rule of the marriage covenant is for husbands to love their wives like Christ also loved the church. This is a sacrificial love. Husband, how have you loved your wife sacrificially? List a few ways.
4. The second rule of the marriage covenant is for wives to respect their husbands. This means encouraging him and showing him honor. Wife, how have you encouraged your husband and shown him honor lately? List a few ways.

5. According to Dr. Evans, sanctions can be blessings or curses. What sanctions that are blessings have you experienced in your marriage, which are the result of you adhering to God's rules for the covenant?

6. What sanctions that are curses have you experienced in your marriage because you have not adhered to God's rules?

7. Continuity is God's desire to pass the blessings of your marriage to the next generation. What blessings are you experiencing that you hope to see passed to the next generation?

(Together Again)

Now come together again. Take turns quoting the memory verse. After quoting the memory verse, share with each other your answers to the questions above that you completed privately. Next, make one or two *SMART goals that you'll both work on applying to your marriage this week. Close out your time together in prayer by thanking God once again for the time you've had together and ask Him to help you reach the goals that you've set for the week ahead.