

REFRAMED

SAME
SITUATION.



GOD'S
PERSPECTIVE.

REFRAMING MARRIAGE



DINNER TABLE DISCUSSIONS

FOR THE FACILITATOR

Welcome to **REFRAMED**, a journey of discovering God's perspective on our current challenges.

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions.

TOPIC: REFRAMING THORNS

Sermon audio: outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/284

READER 1

Marriage, the union of a man and a woman, is as old as creation. It's something that God orchestrated from the very beginning. It's something beautiful that brings God great joy. However along with the rest of creation marriage was stained by sin. So what does marriage look like after it's been reframed?

READER 2

Question #1: Do marriages need discipleship?

Most times a young couple gets married they are thrown into the deep end. They are surrounded by broken marriages and a culture of giving up and moving on as soon as things get hard. With all the brokenness around they turn to the only place they can find the perfect married couples, and that is the media. But the media only gives one kind of good marriage, the disney princess perfect marriage. They learn from the media that unless you can make your marriage like that you might as well give up cause it won't work.

READER 3

Marriages need discipleship, Paul points this out in one of His letters.

Titus 2:4

Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,

Here Paul was encouraging the older woman who had experience to take younger women under their wings and teach them the experience they have gained about marriage.

We are taught how to do our jobs, sometimes we require years of study before we can take on a job. As soon as you enter a place you don't know you need someone who has been there before to guide you. Shouldn't it be the same for something as important as marriage?

READER 4

Question #2: Is no conflict a sign of a healthy marriage?

When it comes to conflict it is often believed by most that all forms of conflict are bad and should be avoided at all costs. The main reason for this is because many believe that conflict will lead to separation, it's not the perfect marriage if there is conflict.

Oftentimes because of this belief we tend to bottle things up, nothing changes and we keep our illusion that there is peace.

READER 5

We especially battle with this in christian marriages. Why? Because conflict is a sin? Isn't it?

Conflict is not a bad thing. It is actually a growing point that can strengthen a marriage. If you think that conflict is bad just remember that Jesus wasn't afraid of conflict, He would often confront people when they were in the wrong, in fact He once even made a whip to hit people with when they turned the temple into a marketplace.

When we don't confront what we disagree with when it comes to our spouse we deny the growth of the marriage, if you don't confront a point of disagreement then you deny a chance of growth for you and your spouse, and instead nothing will

change which can lead to resentment and bitterness inside our hearts.

The main thing to remember when it comes to conflict in a marriage is that it must be out of love and not hatred.

READER 6

Question #3: Did God design marriage to be built on a foundation of happiness?

Since we gain a lot of influence from the world's view of marriage we often think that marriage should be about happiness. Your happiness and your spouse's happiness after all that's why you got married right? So you could be happy.

However, using happiness as a measurement to see how good your marriage is just won't work. You aren't always happy 100% of the time. So when you are unhappy in your marriage does that make it a failure and you should give up?

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Here we see what Paul thought of marriage. It's not something where the main focus is the happiness of the marriage. Instead Paul saw Holiness as the main focus of the marriage.

Like many things, marriage has changed a lot from the time God made the first union. Our views on marriage have become unreal as we try to make it like all the fairytles we read in books

and watch on tv screens. We need to reframe marriage and look at it through God's perspective and not the perspective of a disney princess.

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. What stood out to you and why?

ACTION STEP

What action step can you take to respond to God's Word?

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