

LIVING ON THE EDGE STUDY GUIDE

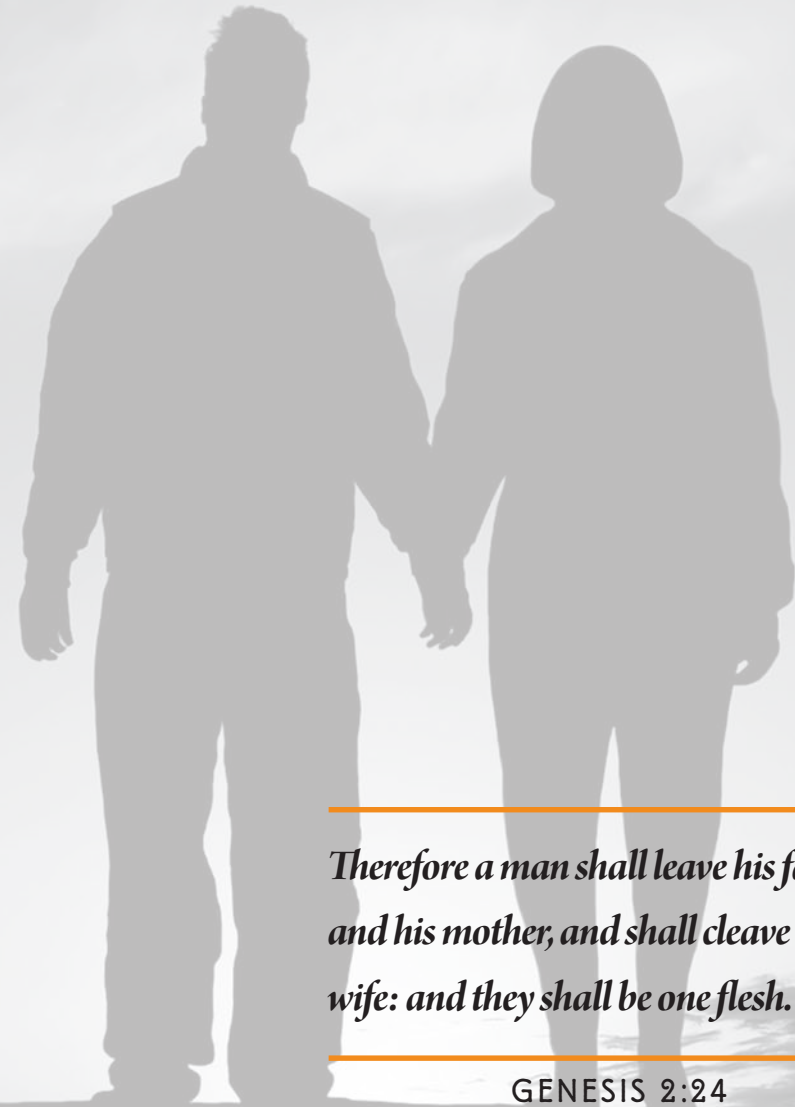


EXPERIENCING
GOD'S DREAM
FOR YOUR MARRIAGE



GOD'S DREAM FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

PART ONE



*Therefore a man shall leave his father
and his mother, and shall cleave unto his
wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

GENESIS 2:24

Marriage is not easy. Just look at all the couples throwing in the towel and walking away from their marriages. But there is hope. Your marriage REALLY can be positive, rich, intimate, and deeply satisfying. God, the designer and architect of great relationships has provided us with a blueprint for building a great marriage. Let the construction begin!

TAKE IT IN (WATCH THE VIDEO)

Francis Schaeffer "Sometimes the greatest deterrent to a very good marriage is believing that you ought to have a perfect one."

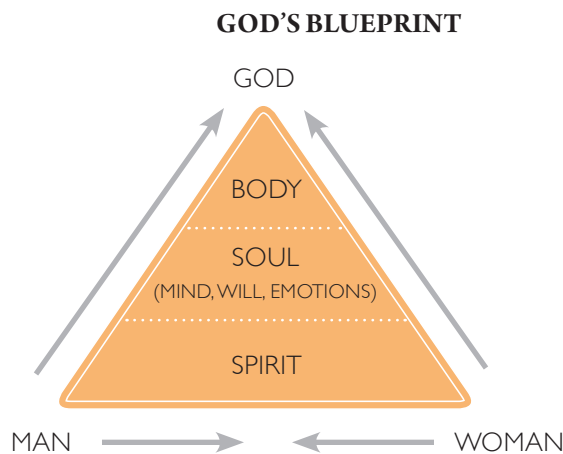
Start looking at what you do have rather than complaining about what you don't have.

MARRIAGE RESEARCH REVEALS...

- ▶ Most couples don't understand the difference between love and infatuation.
- ▶ Most couples have significant baggage from past family or other relationships.
- ▶ Most couples don't have good communication skills.
- ▶ Most couples have hidden or unrealistic expectations.
- ▶ Most couples come from homes where they didn't see deep love and commitment modeled by their parents.

Why do our dreams about marriage so often end up in nightmares?

- ▶ Most couples entered marriage with financial problems and no clear plan for managing their finances.
- ▶ Most couples do not have a clear model or picture of what a healthy marriage looks like but assumed that if you really love each other, things will just work out.



Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

— Genesis 1:26-28 (NASB)

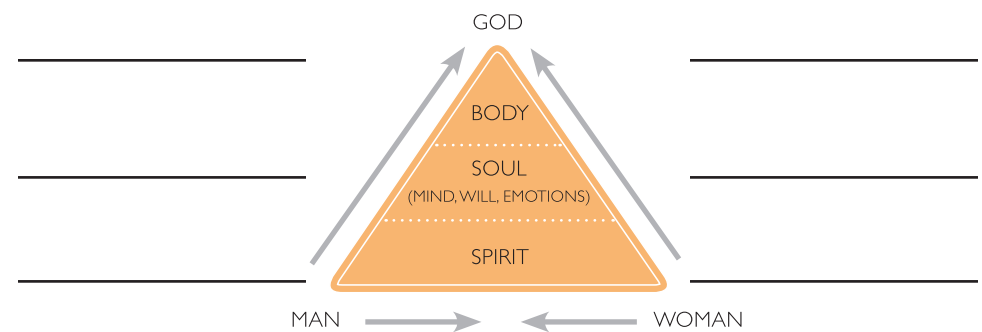
The greatest thing you will ever do in your marriage is walk with God.

God is the author and creator of marriage.

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man."

— Genesis 2:18-22 (NASB)

The deep connectedness between Adam and Eve is something that we all long for.



The root to oneness in your marriage starts with God.

GOD'S PROCESS

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

— Genesis 2:24 (NASB)

Marriage Defined – it is a volitional, legal, public and spiritual commitment to another person.

1. “A man shall leave his father and mother” — *The Break*

Our response to our parents is to be independent.

The key = emotional and financial detachment

 TALK IT OVER

1. What were the one or two things that most attracted you to your mate?

GROUND RULES FOR DISCUSSION

- ▶ Focus on what you do have and build on it
 - ▶ Make this a place for sharing honestly and safely
 - ▶ Confidentiality is crucial
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3. When you got married, how well did you do with the “leave and cleave” principle? What were some of the challenges to becoming independent of parents and others?

4. Chip said “The greatest thing you will ever do in your marriage is walk with God.” How has your walk with God or at times your lack of walking with God impacted your marriage?

5. As you look back to the early years of your marriage, what kinds of issues surfaced that you didn't expect?

6. If you could sit down with a young couple who is getting married in a month, how would you complete the following statement ... “If you want to have a great marriage, the best piece of advice I could give you is...”

 LIVE IT OUT

Set aside a half hour this week for focused, uninterrupted discussion with your spouse (no phones, computers, or TV).

Spend some time reminiscing about your dating, engagement and wedding. Here are some questions to “prime the pump”.

- ▶ Re-live the story of how you first met or what you did on your first date or how you got engaged.
- ▶ What was your favorite “date” that you can remember with your spouse before you got married?
- ▶ What was something humorous that happened at your wedding or reception?
- ▶ What's the most meaningful memory of the days surrounding your wedding?