

Introduction:

Marriage is an _____ commitment to an _____ person.

Review:

Foundational Truth #1:

You can't live this life without the supernatural power of God, so following Jesus personally is the number one priority.

Foundational Truth #2:

You must choose to love your mate whether you feel like it or not.

Foundational Marriage Truths

Foundational Truth #3:

We will have ongoing challenges with communication, sex, finances, parenting, and extended family. These issues are not “_____,” they are “_____” as we learn to listen, understand, and follow God's path.

Key verse:

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 1:2-5

Foundational Truth #6:

I will not consider a divorce as an _____ and I will never threaten my spouse with divorce. I have made a holy and binding _____ before God to let nothing undermine our _____ commitment.

Key verse:

⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ⁷ “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” ⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:6-9

Discussion Questions:

1. How can you reframe a recurring challenge in your marriage from a "deal breaker" into a "heart maker"?
2. When your spouse's imperfections are most difficult to deal with, what helps you maintain an "unconditional commitment"?
3. What does it look like to "consider it all joy" when facing a significant trial in your marriage, even when you don't feel joyful?
4. How does taking divorce completely off the table as an option change the way you approach conflict and hardship?
5. What might prevent you from humbly asking God or others for wisdom when facing a difficult marital issue?