

Marriage: A Picture to a Watching World

Genesis 2:18-23; Ephesians 5:21-33; Revelation 19:6-9

- the oneness of God
- Jesus' love for all believers
- the joy of Jesus' return

Getting Started: What is the purpose of marriage?

Digging In: Read Genesis 2:18-23. What does it mean that the woman is a "helper"? God himself is often described as a "helper" in the sense that He fights for His people. (see Hos 13:9; Ps 115:9-11). How does this effect your idea of the woman being a helper? Male and female together reflect the image of God. What does that mean? How would you describe the relationship between Adam and Eve? Read Ephesians 5:21-33. In vs 32, what does Paul say marriage represents? What is the starting point of the relationship between the husband and wife (vs 21)? What rationale does Paul give for the wife's submission (vs 23-24)? How is the husband's call to love a greater challenge? What would it mean for a husband to love his wife the way Christ loved the church? Read Revelation 19:6-9. This speaks of the return of Jesus for the church. Why do you think it is portrayed as a wedding?

Living It Out: The Bible uses marriage to portray God's love to a watching world. How does this knowledge effect your attitude to marriage? Your willingness to invest in your marriage? Your commitment to pray for marriages? Your commitment to prepare well for being married if you are not already? If you are married, what is one thing you will do this week to strengthen your marriage?

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Reading Plan

October 2011

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 25 | 26 Hosea 1:1-2:23 | 27 Hosea 6:1-11 | 28 Amos 2:6-16 | 29 Amos 3:1-15 | 30 2 Kings 17:1-40 | 1 Nahum 1:1-15 |
| 2 | 3 2 Kings 18:1-37 | 4 Isaiah 36:1-22 | 5 2 Kings 19:1-37 | 6 Isaiah 38:1-22 | 7 2 Kings 20:12-21 | 8 Psalm 41:1-23 |
| 9 | 10 Isaiah 1:1-31 | 11 Isaiah 6:1-13 | 12 Isaiah 7:1-25 | 13 Isaiah 11:1-16 | 14 Isaiah 46:1-13 | 15 Isaiah 53:1-12 |
| 16 | 17 Jer 1:1-19 | 18 Jer 7:1-34 | 19 Jer 18:1-23 | 20 Jer 29:1-32 | 21 Jer 31:27-40 | 22 Jer 23:1-40 |
| 23 | 24 Jer 33:1-26 | 25 Jer 37:1-27 | 26 Jer 38:1-28 | 27 Jer 39:1-18 | 28 2 Kings 25:1-21 | 29 Psalm 79:1-13 |
| 30 | 31 Lam 1:1-22 | 1 Lam 2:1-22 | 2 Lam 3:1-66 | 3 Lam 4:1-22 | 4 Lam 5:1-22 | 5 Psalm 137:1-9 |

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| 16 | 17 Jer 1:1-19 | 18 Jer 7:1-34 | 19 Jer 18:1-23 | 20 Jer 29:1-32 | 21 Jer 31:27-40 | 22 Jer 23:1-40 |
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