

# What Is Your Marriage Trying To Teach You?

## The Year of Discovery, Applied to Marriage

*A Marriage Enrichment Bible Study*

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### Introduction:

2026 is the Year of Discovery. We have been preaching and teaching this all year long. But tonight I want to bring that message right inside your house and right inside your marriage. Isabella is with family tonight, so it is just us. And I want to use this time to ask every married person in this room one question: What is your marriage trying to teach you?

**Your marriage is not just a relationship. Your marriage is a classroom, a mirror, a laboratory, and a revelation.**

**If you will let it, your marriage will teach you more about yourself, more about your spouse, and more about God than almost any other relationship on the face of this earth.**

Most couples stop discovering. They hit year 5, 10, 20, and they stop looking. They assume they have arrived.

**But when you stop DISCOVERING, you start DRIFTING.**

- It is important to make small corrections
- to correct the DRIFT
- to recalibrate

Tonight, we are going to walk through four things God wants every married person in this room to discover. We will share. We will learn. We will laugh. And **when we leave here, our marriages will be stronger than they were when we walked in.**

### Key Scriptures:

Proverbs 25:2 (NKJV)

**"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter."**

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

**"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."**

1 Peter 3:7 (AMPC)

**"In the same way you married men should live considerately with your wives, with an intelligent recognition of the marriage relation, honoring the woman as physically the weaker, but realizing that you are joint heirs of the grace of God."**

Ephesians 5:25, 33 (NLT)

**"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her... each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."**

Amos 3:3 (NKJV)

**"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

**"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help... A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."**

Mark 10:8 (NLT)

**"and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one."**

### **Icebreaker: "Still Discovering You"**

Every couple will take about two minutes. **One at a time, each spouse will share ONE thing they have discovered about their husband or wife in the last twelve months that surprised them.** Could be something deep. Could be something funny. Could be a hidden talent. Could be a new quirk. Could be a new strength. Could be something they are carrying you never noticed before.

The rule of the night is simple. Keep it HONEST. Keep it KIND. No roasting your spouse on Friday night. The reason we start here is because some of us have been married for years, even decades, and we are STILL discovering each other. That is not a failure. That is the design. And that is the whole point of tonight.

### **DISCOVERY 1: DISCOVER YOURSELF**

*Your marriage is a mirror.*

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

**"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."**

Before you got married, you could hide. You had roommates you could escape. You had family you could dodge. You had friends you could turn off when you wanted to be alone. But the moment you made a covenant to share a bed, a bathroom, a bank account, and a life with one human being for the rest of your days, the mirror went up, and it has been up ever since. Your spouse has seen you at your best. Your spouse has seen you at your worst. Your spouse knows your triggers. Your spouse knows your tone. You cannot hide from someone who lives with you. And that is the design. God uses your spouse to reveal YOU to yourself.

#### **1. Sharpening Is Never a Quiet Process.**

Iron sharpens iron. But sparks FLY when iron meets iron. There is friction. There is heat. There is noise. There is grinding. The friction in your marriage is not always the devil. Sometimes the friction in your marriage is God using your spouse as the sharpening stone to expose the dull edges in YOU.

**Application:**

- Before marriage, you could **hide**. After marriage, the mirror is up 24/7.
- Your spouse has seen your best, your worst, your triggers, and your tone. **You cannot hide from someone who lives with you.**
- The friction in your marriage is not always the **devil**. Sometimes it is the **sharpening stone**.
- Marriage brings to the surface the **selfishness** you thought you did not have, the **impatience** you swore you overcame, and the **pride** you thought God already dealt with.
- I call this the **marriage mirror**. And you cannot grow until you are willing to look into it.
- Stop blaming your spouse for what God is trying to **reveal in you** through them.
- The goal of sharpening is not to **hurt** you; the goal is to **sharpen** you. Trust the process.

**2. Marriage Reveals Who You Really Are.**

Some people go their whole lives without ever truly knowing themselves. They live on the surface. They perform. They manage their image. But marriage strips all of that away. You cannot perform 24/7 in your own house. Sooner or later, the real you shows up. And that is a gift, because the real you is what God wants to refine. You cannot fix what you will not face. And marriage puts everything on the table, whether you want it there or not.

**Application:**

- Your **public persona** cannot survive in your own home. The real you shows up.
- Marriage is the laboratory where your **character** gets tested and refined.
- The issues in your marriage are often **you** issues wearing a spouse mask.
- You cannot **fix** what you will not **face**.
- Stop managing your **image** and start developing your **character**.
- When you see yourself clearly, you can **submit to God** for the transformation He wants to do.
- The deepest growth happens when you stop **defending** and start **discovering**.

**Group Discussion – Discovery 1:**

- What has your marriage revealed about **YOU** that you did not know or did not want to admit before you got married?
- Where has God used your spouse as a **sharpening stone** in your life? What has He been refining in you through them?
- Be honest. Are you looking into the marriage **mirror**, or are you turning your face away from it?

## DISCOVERY 2: DISCOVER YOUR SPOUSE

*You have not arrived.*

1 Peter 3:7 (AMPC)

**"In the same way you married men should live considerately with your wives, with an intelligent recognition of the marriage relation, honoring the woman as physically the weaker, but realizing that you are joint heirs of the grace of God."**

One of the biggest lies the enemy whispers to long-married couples is this: you already know your spouse. You already have them figured out. There is nothing new to learn. The moment you believe that lie, you stop asking questions, you stop paying attention, and you start drifting. The Word says to live considerately with your wives, with an intelligent recognition of the marriage relation. That means you have to know them. Study them. Understand them. Learn them. And that is not a one-time assignment. That is a lifetime assignment.

### 3. Your Spouse Is Not Who They Were Ten Years Ago.

Your spouse at 30 is NOT your spouse at 50. People change. Seasons change. Hormones change. Callings shift. Dreams evolve. Pain reshapes us. If you are still married to the version of your spouse from ten years ago, you are not actually married to the person sitting next to you tonight. You are married to a memory. Real marriage is a lifetime of discovery. The day you stop being a student of your spouse is the day your marriage starts to coast.

#### **Application:**

- Your spouse at 30 is **NOT** your spouse at 50. People change, and if you do not keep up, you will drift apart.
- Assume your spouse is still a **mystery worth studying**. Stop treating them like a book you have already read.
- Every season of life will bring a **new version** of your spouse. Your job is to keep learning the current edition.
- Pay attention to what is changing in them: their **fears**, their **dreams**, their **hurts**, their **hopes**.
- A good marriage is built on **current intelligence**, not old assumptions.
- Ask better **questions**. Great marriages are held together by great conversations.
- If your spouse feels **unseen**, your marriage will slowly drift, even if you never fight.

### 4. Studying Your Spouse Is a Lifetime Assignment.

The Proverbs 31 woman did not wake up one day fully understanding her husband. She kept watching. She kept learning. She kept adjusting. The same is true for husbands. Peter tells us to dwell with our wives with understanding, and the word there is not casual. It means deep, deliberate knowledge. You are not called to coexist with your spouse. You are called to know them. And the more you know them, the more effectively you can love them, serve them, pray for them, and walk with them.

#### **Application:**

- Dwelling with your spouse with **understanding** is a command, not a suggestion.

- The more you **know** your spouse, the more effectively you can love them, serve them, and pray for them.
- When was the last time you asked your spouse a **new question**? Not about schedules. Not about the kids. A new question about them.
- Learning your spouse says, "**I still choose you.**" It is one of the most powerful expressions of love.
- Study their **love language**. Study their **stress response**. Study their **spiritual hunger**.
- You cannot **out-grow** the need to be a student of your spouse. Ever.
- Great marriages are not built on **chemistry**; they are built on **curiosity**.

### **Group Discussion – Discovery 2:**

- When was the last time you asked your spouse a **NEW** question about their hopes, fears, or dreams?
- What is something you have discovered about your spouse in the last **twelve months** that you did not know before?
- If you were grading yourself as a **student** of your spouse, what grade would you give yourself right now, and what is one thing you could do this week to raise it?

### **DISCOVERY 3: DISCOVER GOD'S DESIGN**

*Who He called you to be as a husband or a wife.*

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

**"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.'"**

Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)

**"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her."**

Ephesians 5:33 (NLT)

**"So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."**

Most marriages do not fail because the love ran out. Most marriages fail because the design was never learned. Couples make it up as they go. They borrow from their parents. They borrow from movies. They borrow from social media. They borrow from their friends. And then they wonder why the house keeps leaking. God did not toss marriage together. He designed it. And inside your marriage, He is teaching you who you are supposed to be.

#### **5. Husbands, You Were Called To Love Like Christ.**

Men, hear me. You were not called to be a roommate with a paycheck. You were called to love your wife the way Christ loved the church. That is a sacrificial love. That is a laying-down-your-life love. That is a protective, covering, leading, serving love. Christ did not boss the church into submission. He washed her feet. He bled for her. He rose for her. Husbands, you are called to a love that looks like that.

### **Application:**

- You were not called to be a **roommate with a paycheck**. You were called to love like **Christ**.
- Leadership in the home is not about **control**. It is about **covering**.
- Christ did not boss the church into submission. He **washed her feet**.
- Sacrificial love looks like **laying down** your preferences, your ego, and your comfort.
- The test of a godly husband is not what you do in **public**. It is how you treat her in **private**.
- Your wife should feel **safer** with you than she feels anywhere else on earth.
- If your wife has to **compete** with your phone, your job, or your hobbies, you are not loving her the way Christ loved the church.

### **6. Wives, You Were Designed as a Strong Ally.**

Ladies, hear me. You were not designed to be a silent decoration in your home. You were designed as a strong ally. The Hebrew picture of "a helper suitable" is a warrior standing shoulder to shoulder with her husband. Respect and honor are not weakness. They are the spiritual cover that lets your husband step into everything God called him to. Your voice matters. Your wisdom matters. Your walk with God matters. Your marriage needs the strong, God-filled woman God designed you to be.

### **Application:**

- You are not a **silent decoration**. You are a **strong ally**.
- Respect is not **weakness**. Respect is **spiritual cover** that releases your husband into his calling.
- The **Hebrew picture** of "a helper suitable" is a warrior standing shoulder to shoulder, not a shadow behind a throne.
- Your voice matters. Your wisdom matters. Your **walk with God** matters. Bring all of you to this marriage.
- A godly wife can see what her husband cannot see, and a wise husband **listens**.
- Speak **faith** over your husband, even when his behavior does not yet match his calling.
- Your **prayer life** is the most powerful weapon in your home.

### **Group Discussion – Discovery 3:**

- Men: where is the **gap** between loving your wife the way Christ loves the church and the way you actually loved your wife this week?
- Women: where is the **gap** between being the strong ally God designed you to be and how you actually showed up for your husband this week?
- What is **ONE area** where you sense God asking you to step more fully into HIS design for your role?

## DISCOVERY 4: DISCOVER YOUR SHARED DESTINY

*Two walking as one.*

Amos 3:3 (NKJV)

**"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

**"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble... A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."**

Mark 10:8 (NLT)

**"and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one."**

Your marriage is not a duet. Your marriage is a mission. God did not put the two of you together just so you could enjoy each other. God put the two of you together because there is something He wants to do on this earth through the two of you that He cannot do through you alone. Your marriage has a purpose. Your marriage has a destiny. Your marriage has a Kingdom assignment. And if you do not discover it, you will drift into two separate lives under one roof.

### **7. Your Marriage Has a Mission, Not Just a Relationship.**

You are one. Not two people under one roof trying to coexist. ONE flesh. One unit. One team. One assignment. God put you together for a purpose bigger than the two of you. What has He called you to do together? What are you building? What are you leaving behind? Who is being blessed because your marriage exists? Who is being mentored because you chose to walk together? What part of the Kingdom is going to look different because your marriage did not quit?

#### ***Application:***

- Your marriage is not a **duet**; it is a **mission**.
- God put you together for an **assignment** neither of you could fulfill alone.
- Stop asking, "**What can my marriage do for me?**" Start asking, "**What can our marriage do for the Kingdom?**"
- Your marriage has a **purpose**, a **destiny**, and a **Kingdom assignment**. Discover it.
- Pay attention to what **both of you** feel a burden for. That burden is often the assignment.
- You will fight less over **small things** when you are united around a **big thing**.
- Build **together**. Pray **together**. Give **together**. Serve **together**.

### **8. Agreement Is the Access Point to Power.**

Amos 3:3 asks, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" And the answer is no. Agreement is what releases the power of covenant. Jesus said where two agree on earth, it will be done for them in heaven. When a husband and wife come into agreement, there is an

authority in that home that the enemy cannot break. But when a husband and wife are in disagreement, everything leaks. Finances leak. Peace leaks. Authority leaks. Children sense it. Learn to fight for agreement, and you will fight for everything else that matters.

### **Application:**

- **Agreement** is the access point to supernatural power in your home.
- Jesus said where two agree on earth, it will be **done** for them in heaven. You do not want to miss that.
- When a husband and wife are in disagreement, **everything leaks**. Finances, peace, authority, and even parenting.
- A triple-braided cord is not easily broken. **You, your spouse, and God** are the braid.
- Fight **for** agreement, not **against** each other.
- Pray **together** before making major decisions. God will lead you both.
- Your home becomes a **stronghold** when the two of you walk together in faith.

### **Group Discussion – Discovery 4:**

- What has God called the **two of you** to do together that neither of you can do alone?
- If you had to write a **one-sentence mission statement** for your marriage, what would it say?
- Name **ONE** thing the two of you want to **build together** in the next twelve months. Finances, family, ministry, business, legacy. Pick one and name it.

### **Closing Exercise: The Discovery Card**

Hand every person a 3x5 card and a pen. On one side of the card, have them write this sentence and finish it: "Tonight I discovered \_\_\_\_." On the other side of the card, have them write this sentence and finish it: "In this next season, I want to discover \_\_\_\_ about my marriage."

Then have each couple exchange cards with their spouse. Read them to each other. Pray over each other. Take the cards home. Tape them on the bathroom mirror. Every time you brush your teeth, you will be reminded of what God started in you tonight.

### **In Closing**

2026 is the Year of Discovery. Your marriage is one of the greatest fields of discovery God ever placed in your hand. There are four things every married person in this room must discover: yourself, your spouse, God's design, and your shared destiny. You will not coast. You will not drift. You will DISCOVER. And when you do, your best days as a couple will be in front of you, not behind you.

### **Declaration of Faith:**

*Stand with your spouse. Hold hands. Declare this together.*

Father, I thank You for the gift of marriage.

I declare that I will not coast in my marriage. I will DISCOVER.

I will discover MYSELF through the mirror You have placed in my home.

I will discover MY SPOUSE, because they are not a mystery I have solved but a treasure I am still uncovering.

I will discover YOUR DESIGN for me as a husband or as a wife, and I will step into who You called me to be.

I will discover the SHARED DESTINY You placed on our marriage, and we will walk it out together.

I refuse to drift. I refuse to coast. I refuse to settle.

I am a student of my spouse. I am a steward of this covenant. I am a servant of the mission God gave us.

This is the YEAR OF DISCOVERY, and I will not miss what You have for me in my marriage.

GREATER IS COMING FOR US!

**I declare this by faith. In Jesus' name. Amen!**

***This is Today's Word. Apply it and prosper!***

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