

## Week 1

The Facilitator Guide will help you lead the conversation. [Brackets] indicate simple cues for you, as the facilitator, not intended to be read aloud.

### Conversation Starter:

Describe a time you were completely unprepared for something. (Hint: Think a test at school, project at work, an anniversary, a trip you took, having your first child, etc.)

[Play the Recap Video, then move on to the Discussion Questions]

### Discussion Questions:

**Question 1:** What's the most extravagant wedding you've ever attended? Why do you think people spend so much time preparing for a day rather than planning for a lifetime?

**Question 2:** Do you think most people desire to get married to fill a need or to meet the needs of another? Why?

- **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5**

**Question 3:** In this passage, Paul describes “perfect love,” which is an impossible standard for us to meet consistently. In the message, David said, “the expectations you bring to your partnership can make or break your marriage.” Do you agree or disagree and why?

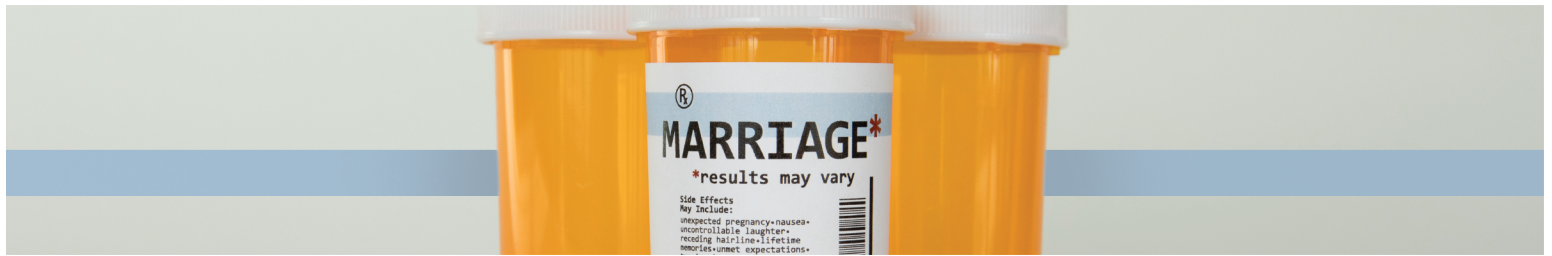
**Question 4:** Which of the five myths are you most prone to believe? What rules and roles are you carrying into your relationships that need adjusting or clarifying?

- **Read Galatians 5:22-23**

**Question 5:** Marriage can be tricky. The good news is God offers his Spirit to give us strength and courage to work on our relationships because they are worth it! What is one thing you need to do this week to invest in your marriage? If you are single, how can you cultivate your character now to lead to healthy relationships later?

### Pray:

If you are married, pray that you would begin to experience glimpses or moments of hope where you realize that your spouse is the perfect one for you. For those who are single, pray that God would give you wisdom in establishing reasonable expectations in your relationships.



## **Bonus:**

A happy marriage doesn't have to be a gamble!

This week take some time to reflect on the five marriage myths. If you are married, discuss which one has most affected your relationship with your spouse. For those of you who are single, write down which of these false beliefs is currently challenging other relationships in your life.

### **Myth #1 – “We expect exactly the same things from marriage.”**

- \*Unspoken Rules – rarely spoken but always known once broken.
- \*Unconscious Roles – developed from our backgrounds.
- \*We try to follow a script written not by us but by our role models.

### **Myth #2 – “Everything good in our relationship will only get better.”**

- \*Every successful marriage experiences losses – your idealized image of your spouse
- \*We marry an image and only later discover the real person.

### **Myth #3 – “Everything bad in my life will disappear” - we'll “live happily ever after.”**

- \*The wedding day is not a place of arrival but the place where the adventure begins.

### **Myth #4 – “My spouse will make me whole.”**

*“The success of a marriage comes not from finding the “right” person, but in the ability of both partners to adjust to the real person they inevitably realize they married.” - John Fisher*

### **Myth #5 – “It would be easier to start over with someone new.”**

- \*Don't give up. Your marriage is worth the fight.
- \*Until you work on your issues that are bringing stress to your current relationship the next one will not be easier –they will not go away with someone new.