



Sermon Discussion Guide

"RETHINKING YOUR MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIPS"
(Building Godly Character - Part 2)
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Icebreaker: What is one thing you would like to change about your marriage (if married)? What is one thing you would like to change about your closest relationship (if single)?

THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE.

OUR DESIRE IS THAT YOU WOULD USE THIS "GUIDE" TO LEAD YOU INTO DEEPER PERSONAL STUDY.

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:10)

Also read: (Matthew 13:3-8)

God gave us relationships as a way to reach others. Marriage is a tool God uses as a vehicle to pass his legacy on to the world. So why is it difficult for us to establish and maintain healthy relationships and why do so many marriages end up as statistics—even in the church? There are, of course, many reasons, but perhaps it begins with recognizing our hearts as fertile soil in which God longs to plant the transforming seed of his Word. But in order to encourage that seed to go deep and develop his fruit in our lives, we have to identify and uproot a lot of weeds. How can we do that?

Questions:

1. Many of us look at beautiful gardens and lawns and don't realize the work it took to get them to look like that. I always tell people, "The grass is not greener on the other side of the fence, it's greener where you tend it." When we enter into a relationship, especially in marriage, most of us have unrealistic expectations. We imagine it to will great without realizing the work we have to put into it. What expectations have you had in the past? Where do you start when you want to shed an unrealistic expectation?
2. All of us carry around baggage from people, problems, or pain in our past. Like weeds that need to be pulled up by the roots, we need to identify and eliminate those issues so our relationships can thrive. What things choke out God's good seeds and plans for our marriages, our lives and relationships?
3. (Psalm 139:23-24) says, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.*" Here we ask God to help us to eliminate weeds in our lives so that we may grow and flourish in our relationships. When we surrender our lives to Jesus it is often said that we are "*dying to self.*" When we marry or have children, we often discover we have to do it all over again. How do we surrender our lives to Jesus and others while still maintaining our God given unique identities?
4. (Psalm 1:3) states, "*He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*" Now, compare it to (Jeremiah 17:8). What can you add to your life that will help you to flourish like the beautiful fruit-bearing tree described in these verses?
5. Weeds in our lives need to be uprooted rather than just cut back. What is the difference between cutting down a problem, hurt, or fear versus uprooting it? (Romans 12:2) "*Do not conformed to this age, but be*

