

IVVAKKKVAAGI



Journey Church

**MARRIAGE
CONFERENCE**

CONFERENCE



**Fair fight rules
are an agreement
between spouses
to pursue open
and honest
communication
until they find a
resolution that
both can live with.**



THE SECOND HAPPY

SESSION ONE

THE BIG LESSON:

GIVE more than you TAKE

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:” PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5 (NIV)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value _____ above yourself, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of your spouse. In your marriage with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5 (APPLIED)

IN SIMPLER TERMS:

“ GIVE them the better half of the BAGEL ”

PRACTICE #1

_____ a _____

What approach did your Family use growing up?

(Or is most like you when immature?)

Consider: There's little chance for a happy marriage unless you can resolve conflict. Not merely confront conflict or avoid conflict, but actually solve conflict. Picking a "Fair Fight" (true conflict resolution) IS the breakthrough to a healthy, happy and whole marriage.
(See *Prefight Rules* on page 29)

LEARN TO FIGHT FAIR

(As many rounds as it takes, up to 12 rounds.)

Stage 1: 4 Rounds of COMMUNICATION

Stage 2: 4 Rounds of COMPROMISE

Stage 3: 4 Rounds of COUNSELING (optional)

**Real love in
real marriages
requires real
compromise.**



THE SECOND HAPPY

SESSION TWO

“I Love You” ... but what does this mean?

How would they know? Perhaps, the very essence of “love” is that you would GIVE more than you TAKE!!!

AND ... one of the main ways you PROVE “you love someone” (value someone) is by paying the price to

HEAR and BE HEARD!

STAGE 1: 4 ROUNDS OF COMMUNICATION

(hear and be heard)

Round 1

Round 2

Round 3

Round 4

STAGE 2: 4 ROUNDS OF COMPROMISE

“Anyone who says, ‘there’s no such thing as compromise,’ has never been married.”

— JOHN MAXWELL

We all come to marriage with idealism. Blinded by Idealism (i.e. when love is blind) you cannot see your differences. Eventually, what follows is Disillusionment (i.e. you’ve been duped) and all you can see is the differences!

When couples focus on “differences” you can get **STUCK** on where you disagree. Then you tend to dig in, get stubborn and self-justify. Communication and Compromise is the only way out. (A marriage can get STUCK for years – for a lifetime or into a divorce.)

Whenever you meet a couple who is authentically “happily married” – to pretend they had it easy is a lie you tell yourself. It’s more likely they paid an enormous Philippians 2 price to communicate and compromise.

Round 5

Round 6

Round 7

Round 8

STAGE 3: 4 ROUNDS OF COUNSELING (OPTIONAL)

If you have done the 8 rounds but still cannot come to a “livable compromise” (and it’s happened to us) – then it’s time to get some outside help.

Round 9

Round 10

Round 11

Round 12

Ponder:

Do I: Give more than I Take?

Do I: Fight Fair?

Prayer: Lord, help me get past myself – to Give more than I Take – to be more like you. To live Phil 2:3-5 ... (perhaps re-read)! Help us grow one layer deeper into Fair Fights. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

SESSION THREE

**Prioritizing
togetherness builds
love, because love is
spelled t-i-m-e.**



THE SECOND HAPPY

SESSION THREE

Who loves Chocolate?

(Milk? Dark? White? With or without Almonds? Etc.)

PRACTICE #2

BUILD SOLID

(Don't Settle for the Hollow Easter Bunny)

Marriage is LIVED ***under pressure***. So, if you fail to build solid – you will fall apart under pressure! (Hmm, so we decided to work harder on building the things people did not see.)

The Art of Non-Negotiables (or irreducible minimums):

APPLY:

If we want to build MORE SOLID ... What do we need to:

STOP?

START?

CONTINUE?

[OR, if we are honest, “What’s HOLLOW and cracks under pressure?”]

**To build a solid
marriage and
family, we have to
be very intentional
about sharing our
lives and staying
close.**



THE SECOND HAPPY

SESSION FOUR

The Old Testament Story of King David

“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.”

II SAMUEL 11:1 (NIV)

Why?

“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

II SAMUEL 11:2-5 (NIV)

THE F I N E FAMILY

Pretense in the Family

The Elephant in the Room

PRACTICE #3

EVICT The Elephant

Evicting Everyday Elephants:

Talk: Where is the “Elephant” in our marriage? Family?

Pray: “Lord, Give me (us) the courage to Evict this Elephant:

**When you embrace
an attitude of
submission to God
and to your spouse,
you move toward
both.**



THE SECOND HAPPY

SESSION FIVE

THE BIG LESSON:

GIVE more than you TAKE

Consider: What if “selflessness” is not solved by self, but rather is surrendered and sacrificed.

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:4-11 (NIV)

AND “What If” that was to be practiced Everyday – Everywhere?! Imagine that everyone carries around two buckets in life. Everyday. Everywhere. One bucket contains gasoline and the other contains water. How you use those buckets will either build things up or burn things down in your life. Now then, your marriage has two buckets.

PRACTICE #4

CHOOSE your Bucket Wisely

Questions:

If your spouse could change 1-2 annoying habits about you – what would they change?

If you could change 1-2 annoying habits about yourself – what would you change?

If you could overlook your spouse’s annoying habits – how would that change your marriage?

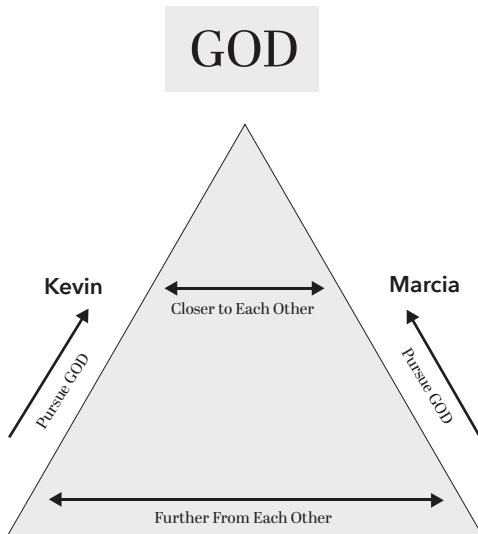
What does your spouse need to forgive for your marriage to “get healthy, whole and happy”?

What do you need to forgive for your marriage to “get healthy, whole and happy”?

3 OBSERVATIONS:

1) It's easier to see your SPOUSE'S "sins" than your OWN "sins"

2) It's wiser to TALK with God before you TALK to your spouse



Discovery: 50% of our potential “Fights” are solved before they ever become a fight. And before they ever make it to a “Fair Fight”. They are simply “settled with God and within”!

(Pour water on it – douse it – pour water on it – camping – we’d pour water on the fire so we could go to bed. Good practice – pour water on the fire.)

3) It’s HEALING when the Forgiven FORGIVE

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (ESV)

One thing I needed to hear and will take action on ...

- 1. PICK A FAIR FIGHT**
- 2. SUMMARIZE THE ISSUE**
- 3. SCHEDULE THE FIGHT**
- 4. SHOW UP AND FULLY ENGAGE**
- 5. KEEP THE FIGHT CLEAN**
- 6. NEVER THROW IN THE TOWEL**
- 7. FINISH THE FIGHT THE RIGHT WAY**
- 8. PAY THE PRICE FOR BREAKING THE RULES**

PREMISES RULES



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