

# God's Idea | 01.11.09



1. In what ways does it seem obvious to you that there is a massive gap between the biblical view of marriage and the common view of marriage? What are some of the different reasons why people get married?

2. What does it mean to you that marriage is fundamentally a spiritual reality, not a legal one?

*Leader Hints:*

- *Genesis 1-2 teaches us that marriage is God's idea and that it is by his doing.*
- *Take a look at the action words attributed to God and the first marriage in Genesis 1:27; 2:18; 2:21; 2:22; Matthew 19:4-5.*
- *Rehearse the point being made in Genesis 2:24—these words are here to inform us that the reason why we get married in the first place is because of what God did in the garden.*

3. If in a group of married couples, have each person share one way that their spouse complements them.

*Leader Hints:*

- *Please, no physical comments. Explore personality, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, abilities!*
- *God designed a husband and a wife to complement one another (Genesis 2:18). This means that they are a fit for each other, that they correspond to one another, and that they supply strength to one another in areas that each is lacking.*

4. What is God's specific design for a married couple? What does that mean?

*Leader Hints:*

- *Leave, unite, one flesh (Genesis 2:24).*

5. What are some ways that a husband and a wife could communicate that their spouse is a priority in their life?

6. Spend some time together praying for each other and your marriages.

*Leader Hints:*

- *If you are in a blended group, pray for those who are married and those who are single. God's Word celebrates both marriage and singleness and notes the challenges of both situations. Ask the group to really cry out to God that our marriages would celebrate his gift of each other and would commit to follow his design.*

7. Ask for a commitment—this is the homework part of this week—and then follow-up at your next meeting.

- Ask each couple to set aside one hour of one-on-one time with their spouse where they can do the following:
  - ❖ Express their commitment to each other and the permanence of their relationship.
  - ❖ Explore their unity with each other, rehearsing how they complement one another.
  - ❖ Pray together, celebrating each other as God's gift to the other.
- Ask those who are single (if applicable) to set aside some time to pray to God and thank him for the gift of being single.