

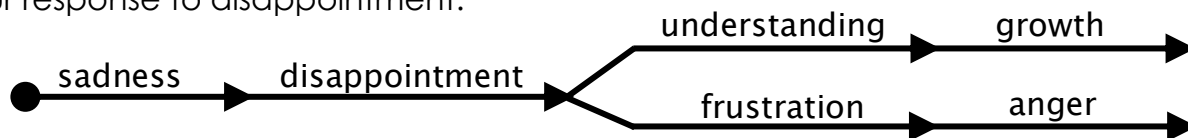
MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT - LESSON 4

Expectations

Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Main Idea: Expectations are beliefs about the way things will be or should be – including behaviors, roles, life and death, relationships and so forth. Expectations that are not met lead to feelings of sadness and disappointment, but you have a choice in your response to disappointment.



Marriage will be full of unmet expectations. How are you going to respond to your spouse when your expectations are not met? Life is found when we trust God to meet our needs rather than looking to our spouse.

Optional Resources for Leading the Lesson

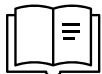


Idea for Illustrating the Main Idea:

Discuss the varied expectations that surround holidays and weekend plans.

OR

Play the True/False Expectations Game with your couples. (resource attached)



Additional Scriptures for you to read/reference with the group:

1 Corinthians 13:5, Philemon 1:8-9, Ephesians 4:2, Philippians 4:8, Luke 9:24, John 16:33, Psalm 62:2



Gospel Implications: (connect the lesson to their relationship with God)

Romans 3:23 – We fall short of God’s ideal (expectations) and he chose to die for us.
Psalm 103:10 – God does not treat us as we deserve.

1. Consider your expectations. What are some beliefs you have been holding onto that are impacting your marriage? Do you have some expectations from your family of origin that you’re putting on your spouse?
2. Think of a recent conflict with your spouse. Can you see a connection to an unmet expectation in that conflict?
3. How do you respond when your spouse doesn’t meet your expectations? How does your response affect your marriage?
4. What would it look like for you to surrender your expectations to God? What is one step you can take this week in trusting God to meet your needs?

THROUGH THE WEEK

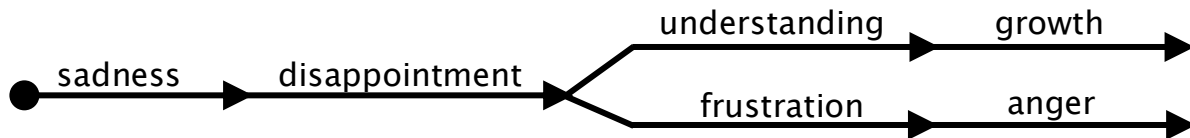
Expectations

Read the Scripture below for each day and answer the following questions. Every passage may not clearly give an answer to each question but think through these questions and see how God leads you. You may want to use a journal for this daily time in God's word.

1. What do I learn about God?
2. What do I learn about myself?
3. What do I learn about loving my spouse/others?

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 9:23-26	Philippians 4:4-9	Matthew 6:25-34	Isaiah 40:28-31

Expectations that are not met lead to feelings of sadness and disappointment, but you have a choice in your response to disappointment.



Challenge for the Week:



In humility and without defense, ask your spouse to share with you one area in which you are meeting and/or exceeding their expectations and one area in which they feel sadness, disappointment, frustration or anger. Try to meet their need in a practical way this week.

Additional Resources:



Article - www.reengage.org/blog/not-what-you-expected
 Book - **What Did You Expect?** by Paul David Tripp

Expectations (True or False)

Read the following statements and put a "T" beside the statements you believe are true and an "F" beside the statements you believe are false concerning marriage.

Statements:

- _____ I should learn new things about my spouse every day.
- _____ My spouse should meet all my needs for companionship.
- _____ Time will resolve all of our problems.
- _____ If I have to ask, it is not as meaningful.
- _____ Disagreements are inevitable in any relationship.
- _____ Keeping secrets about my past or present is acceptable if it would only cause pain for my spouse.
- _____ Our relationship will change over time.
- _____ My spouse's interest in sex should be the same as mine.
- _____ Our relationship will be better when we have a baby.
- _____ Romance is not a direct reflection of our love for one another.
- _____ We should do things just like my family did.
- _____ Nothing could cause us to question our love for one another.
- _____ It takes more than love to have a great marriage.
- _____ It is better to keep silent about something bothering me than to cause unnecessary problems in our relationship.
- _____ More money would solve a lot of our problems.

