

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT - LESSON 6

### Defend My Marriage

#### 1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

*“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

**Main Idea:** Recognize that there will be attacks on your marriage from without (the devil) and attacks from within (your own selfishness). This reality is continually working against healthy marriage. In this battle, you and your spouse will be tempted to think you are enemies rather than allies. You must work together intentionally to fight the temptation to believe this lie. You are a team and God is for you!

#### Optional Resources for Leading the Lesson



##### *Idea for Illustrating the Main Idea:*

Discuss the dangers of social media and how it feeds comparing your marriage, which fuels discontent and results in inappropriate connections with people that are not our spouse. Remind them that even if they have done things that did not protect their marriage, God is able to “restore the years the locusts have eaten.” (Joel 2:25-32)



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

John 10:10, John 16:33, Proverbs 4:23, James 4:7, 1 John 4:4, Ephesians 6:10-11



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

Romans 8:31 – If God is for us, who can be against us?

Isaiah 41:10 – God will strengthen, help, & uphold you w/ His righteous right hand.

Deuteronomy 20:4 – God gives us victory.

1. In what area do you feel like you (and your marriage) are most “under fire?” Where are you most vulnerable?
2. What are some of the ways you’re allowing the world’s messages about marriage to negatively influence your view of marriage? (consider media, friends, family, etc.)
3. What specific selfish patterns can you own that are damaging your marriage?
4. What steps can you take this week to guard against attacks within your marriage?
5. How have you tried to overcome evil in your marriage without God’s help?

## THROUGH THE WEEK

### Defend My Marriage

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
Ephesians 6:10-18	2 Corinthians 10:3-6	Romans 12:1-2	Colossians 3:5-11	Colossians 3:12-17



#### *Challenge for the Week:*

Pray for your marriage, specifically (a) that God would take back the ground that has been lost, (b) that God would heal the damage caused by your sin, and (c) that God would help you be on the same team.



#### *Additional Resources:*

Article - [www.reengage.org/blog/opposite-sex-friendships-marriage](http://www.reengage.org/blog/opposite-sex-friendships-marriage)  
Book - **Defending Your Marriage** by Tim Muehlhoff