

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT - LESSON 9

Knowing and Being Known

Proverbs 20:5 (NIV)

“The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.”

Main Idea: Everyone desires to be known and to be loved. If you are not known by your spouse, it is hard to believe their love for you. Knowing and being known doesn't just happen. As a relationship matures, familiarity can breed complacency. To fight against this, we must be intentional in the pursuit of our spouse. It takes God-given courage to be vulnerable in order to grow together relationally, spiritually and sexually with your spouse.

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us” – Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*

Optional Resources for Leading the Lesson



Idea for Illustrating the Main Idea:

Discuss knowing facts about your spouse vs. knowing their heart. If you can quote all the facts about a famous athlete or celebrity, you might feel like you know them, but in reality, you only know facts about them. You don't know them personally. The same dynamic can happen in our marriage. Just because you know facts about our spouse does not mean you are in touch with and know their heart.



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

Romans 8:6, Philippians 3:3b, John 6:63, Proverbs 3:5-6, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 121:1-2, Psalm 127:1



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

Psalm 139 – God’s full knowledge of us is a blessing and comfort.
John 10:14-15 – Jesus knows His sheep and they know Him.

1. How did you discover your spouse's likes and dislikes when you were dating?
2. What are some of the obstacles that keep you from seeking to know your spouse today?
3. What are some of the obstacles that keep you from allowing your spouse to know you?
4. How have you let familiarity breed complacency in your marriage?
5. What's one positive thing you have learned about your spouse recently?

THROUGH THE WEEK

Knowing and Being Known

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
Psalm 139	Psalm 23	Psalm 19	Psalm 103:1-14	Psalm 46

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- Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage* -



Challenge for the Week:

Ask your spouse which area is the most difficult for the two of you to experience closeness: relational, spiritual, or sexual? Without arguing or commenting on their response, ask them what they feel might be a hurdle in that area of closeness.



Additional Resources:

Article - <https://www.reengage.org/blog/how-to-be-real-with-your-spouse>

Book - **The Gift of Being Yourself** by David Benner

Book - **The Meaning of Marriage: A Couple's Devotional** by Tim & Kathy Keller