



Marriage Mix Tape | Shawn Johnson | 2.24.19  
Life Group Weekly

START

To get things started, go around and answer the following question:

**What was your go-to song for each of the following seasons of your life?**

**Childhood:**

**High School:**

**The Young Adult Years:**

SHARE

Welcome to week three of our relationship series called “Mixtape.” If you have ever made a mix tape for someone, chances are your motivation was to move them. Whether it was to remind them of your love, make them rethink things about your relationship, or even convince them to get back together; mixtapes are created to inspire movement!

In this series, we are talking about moving our relationships closer to what God originally intended them to be. Whether you are single, dating, engaged, or have been married for years, we all have meaningful relationships in our life. And if we are honest, these relationships always have room for improvement.

This week we talked about what the Bible has to say about marriage!

## G R O W

This week Shawn gave us a marriage mix tape, composed of ten steps to help our relationships. Here's a quick recap of the list:

1. Race to Repent
2. Forgive Like Crazy
3. Speak Life
4. Speak Their Language
5. Whatchu Really Really Want
6. Get Help
7. Date Your Spouse
8. Pursue Your God
9. Just Don't Quit
10. Stand on The Word

**Which of those ten steps stuck out to you the most? Why?**

**When it comes to your marriage (or close relationships) which of those ten steps do you feel is your strongest? Which ones needs some extra attention?**

Doing the hard work to identify your strengths and weaknesses in your relationships is not easy, but it is incredibly helpful as we continue moving forward to loving one another well! No matter where you are in your relationships, there is a passage in 1 John that can help us all.

**Read 1 John 4:7-12**

As John writes in this letter, we notice he isn't pulling any punches. Toward the end of it, he wraps up everything he's been saying throughout his life in a single sentence. This one sentence is the secret to accomplishing every one of the ten items Shawn gave us this week.

*Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. - 1 John 4:11*

God has gone to great lengths to display His love for us. The more we understand this love, the easier it becomes for us to love others. Understanding God's love for us is the starting point and key to experience healthy, thriving relationships. So, finding consistent ways to be reminded of this love is one of the best things we can do for our relationships!

**What emotions does 1 John 4:11 bring up? Explain.**

**What are some practical ways you remind yourself of God's love for you?**

M O V E

**Read Matthew 22:34-40**

**What does it look like to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?**

**Who is your neighbor? What do you think it means to love your neighbor as yourself?**

Matthew 22 is a beautiful moment in Scripture. A Pharisee tries to put Jesus to the test by asking him what the greatest commandment in the law is. This man, an expert in the law, is trying to trick Jesus by putting Him in a corner. But Jesus answers it without skipping a beat.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” – Matthew 22:37-40

What does this passage have to do with marriage? Well, for those of us who are married, our spouse is our closest neighbor! The person you are married to is your first opportunity to take this command seriously! It's easy to read a passage like this and immediately think about the incredibly long list of people in need, in this world. There are endless opportunities to help and care for those who are in need. And it's really important that we do our best to help everyone we can. But first and foremost, we are called to love those closest to us. Loving our spouse is the most critical ministry opportunity in our life!

If you are married, take the opportunity to find ways every day to love your spouse well just as Christ has done for us. And if you aren't married, take the opportunity to love those closest to you; your family, friends, roommates, and whoever else God has placed in your life. This week we all are invited to carry out this commandment as we continue to press into the deep love and affection God has for us.

**What are some ways practical ways you can love your spouse (or those closest to you) this week? Brainstorm a list of at least three ideas.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

#### T O G O

John 13:35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

