



Marriage – Real Talk | Shawn & Jill Johnson/Jimmy & Irene Rollins | 2.14.21
Weekly Study

S T A R T

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

What's your go-to cold weather movie or activity?

S H A R E

Welcome to our brand-new series, Let's Talk About Relationships! For the next several weeks, we will take a look at what Scripture has to say about our relationships with one another. We are going to cover a lot of ground in this series, but this week we had a powerhouse panel. Shawn, Jill, Jimmy, and Irene all sat down to talk about marriage! But before we dive in, take some time to catch up with your Group by answering the following questions.

What is one word you would use to describe how you are currently feeling? Why did you choose that word?

Rate your week on a scale of 1 to 10. Why did you choose that number?

Like last week, if this is one of your first meetings, we want to continue to give you all a chance to get to know each other a little more by sharing your life story. Although this can be scary, it is one of the most fruitful things your Group can do. Pick two-three people from your Group this week and have them answer the following questions.

- 1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?**
- 2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.**

3. How have you changed in the last five years?
4. Describe yourself in five words and explain why you picked each one.
5. Who is God to you?

Every person has a unique journey they have been on that has led them to this point. Taking the time to share your story is a fantastic exercise for you and for everyone listening!

G R O W

Read Revelation 12:10-12

What is one word you would use to describe how you are currently feeling about this relationship series (excited, indifferent, nervous, etc.). Why did you pick that word?

In the passage you just read, Revelation 12:11 says two things defeat the power of Satan in someone's life: "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

That's such an amazing and simple two-step process is. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. He did his part. Now it's time for us to do our part. Our job is to share all the stories of how far God has brought us with each other!

This week Jimmy and Irene were incredibly transparent and authentic with us. They shared about the struggles they experienced early on in their marriage. Marriage takes work. Along the way, there will be lots of ups and downs, but arguments can be opportunities for us to move forward. Marriage is never going to be perfect, but it can be amazing! We just have to be willing to put the work in. Like Jimmy and Irene reminded us, there is power in affirming and speaking life into your spouse! That's one of the best ways to work on your marriage.

What is one thing you love most about your spouse? If you aren't married, what is one thing you love about a friend or loved one?

How can you tell them that this week? What is one practical way you can let them know, through your words and your actions, that you love them?

M O V E

James 5:13-16

What stuck out to you about this passage? What do you think James is trying to communicate with us?

This passage is short, but it packs a punch. James reminds us of the power of being with each other. When we are happy, we are called to celebrate together. When we are sick, we are called to help each other heal. And when we stray from the path, we are called to confess our sins to each other.

According to James, we are called to confess our sins to God so that you can be forgiven but then confess your sins to each other so that you can be healed!

Taking time to talk to your spouse about the areas you fall short is one of the most powerful things you can do. You aren't perfect, and neither are they. You are going to have moments where you don't see eye to eye. Every relationship is going to have fights and fallouts. The trick is to learn how to fight fair. Here's one of the best questions we can learn to ask: **Is my goal to win or understand?**

When you get into an argument with your spouse (or friend), what is your motive? Are you genuinely trying to understand where they are coming from, or are you just trying to prove your point?

As Jimmy reminded us this week, "marriage is a multiplier, not a fixer." Marriage doesn't magically fix all of our problems. Instead, it magnifies them

However, there is so much power in sharing our stories and struggles with each other. Marriage takes a lot of work, but there is strength in remembering that we are all in this together. Take some time to talk to your Group about how your marriage (or another close relationship) is going by answering these questions.

Would you agree that marriage is a multiplier, not a fixer? How have you experienced this principle in your own relationships?

What is the most challenging part about your marriage (or another close relationship)?

What is your favorite part about your marriage (or another close relationship)?

Take-Home Assignment

According to Scripture, *we are better together*. Meditate on Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 every day this week. Read it out loud every morning and then return to it every night for a few minutes before you go to sleep!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9