



Real Good Marriage: Part 1 | Shawn Johnson | 2.26.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Shawn continued our series “~~Reel~~ Real Relationships” with part 1 of what it looks like biblically to have a “Real Good Marriage.” He shared ways we can love one another well in the best days and the worst by pressing into God and one another. After a decade of highlight reels, everybody’s ready for some behind the scenes. People want authenticity and real. And it’s truer in relationships than anywhere else. It’s time to be real about the struggles of relationships. And it’s time to let God be real with us about what he wants for our relationships.

Before you dive into the study check-in with each other by asking these questions:

How has God revealed himself to you in the last week?

Where do you need God to show up in your life?

GROW

Read Proverbs 10:11, 18:21-22; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 4:29

Our tongue, one of the smaller parts of our body, is one of the most powerful forces for good or evil in our marriage or any other relationship for that matter. Jesus said in Luke 6:45, “out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.” What is inside will come out, life or death. It all depends on what is filling our hearts.

Do you think it is important to be aware of what we are allowing into our hearts?

What are you filling your heart with?

There is nothing more refreshing to a person who is incredibly thirsty than to come upon a deep well of cool refreshing water. This is what words filled with life do for a weary and discouraged heart. But the opposite is also true. We learned this weekend that words are incredibly powerful. The words that come out of our mouth can build up, bless, curse, encourage, and motivate or they can also tear down, hurt, and cause horrible scars. We have been called to build one another up towards Jesus and just as Shawn said this weekend, it is a choice.

What has been spoken over you and how has that impacted you to this day?

What are you speaking? Are the words you speaking producing life or death? Are you building up or tearing down? Are you giving hope or discouragement?

To speak life into our spouse, friends, family, neighbors, co-workers we must be filling our own hearts with the goodness of God by getting into the Word, listening to worship, praying. God is life and he will pour out of us in our words and actions as he pours into us.

M O V E

Read Galatians 6:2; James 5:16

One of the beautiful things about being a son or daughter of God is that you are not alone. One way that God tangibly reminds us of this is that he intentionally brings together Christian relationships to strengthen and encourage one another. One of the ways we do this is by bearing each other's burdens or taking up the cause for someone else. We are called to do this in our marriages as well as in our other relationships just as Jesus does for us. As Shawn said

the week, we can't carry another's burdens unless we know about them. Therefore, it is so important in relationships to come out of hiding so that we can know and be known to the deepest human level possible.

Are you one to dump all your burdens on people? Or do you tend to hide them for many different reasons?

We have been created to know God and be known by him. We are also called to know people and be known by them as well. We are called to carry each other's burdens. But just as Shawn mentioned, we cannot carry each other's burdens that we don't know about because we are in hiding which makes taking care of each other's burdens impossible to carry. As we move in the practice of stepping out of hiding and into allowing ourselves to be fully known we then can be fully loved just as God, our Father does. This is what God has originally designed us to experience first with him but then with others.

How does living out of knowing you are fully known and loved by God change the way you may love yourself and others?

Are you willing to be fully known and loved by your spouse or those closest to you? Why or why not?

Shawn shares this quote from Tim Keller, "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."

With your group, talk about this quote. Do you agree with that being known and loved is each of our greatest fears?

P R A Y

Commit to praying for one another as we all know real relationships are difficult but worth it. Pray for courage and strength to do the hard work so that we will begin to reflect the love of Christ in our relationships and to the rest of the world.

