

COUPLES CONNECT

September - October Semester Journey

WELCOME

We are grateful that you have chosen to join Couples Connect this semester. Our goal is to create a space where couples can grow spiritually, strengthen their relationships, engage in honest conversation, and practice what they are learning in real life.

OUR SEMESTER JOURNEY

This semester is designed as one continuous journey. September emphasizes **Lead Us in Inner Reflection**, and October moves that reflection outward into **Lead Us in Discipleship**. The themes change, but the formation continues.

DATE	DAY	THEME	FOCUS
Sep 6	Sunday	Semester Kickoff	Welcome, introductions, group culture, semester overview
Sep 9	Wednesday	Inner Reflection	Us in Mind - What Does It Take to Have a Great Marriage?
Sep 13	Sunday	Inner Reflection	Discussion & application: Examining the thoughts shaping us
Sep 16	Wednesday	Inner Reflection	Us in Mind - What Do You Think About Yourself?
Sep 20	Sunday	Inner Reflection	Discussion & application: How self-perception enters the relationship
Sep 23	Wednesday	Inner Reflection	Us in Mind - What Do You Think About Your Spouse?
Sep 27	Sunday	Inner Reflection	Discussion & application: Examining the lens through which we see our spouse
Sep 30	Wednesday	Inner Reflection	Us in Mind - What Do You Think Is the Purpose of Marriage?
Oct 4	Sunday	Inner Reflection -> Discipleship	Discussion & application: The purpose of our "us"
Oct 7	Wednesday	Discipleship	First Wednesday Live (In-Person Bible Study) <i>WATCH ON OWN:</i> You and Me Forever - Marriage in Light of God's Glory (Link to video will be sent)
Oct 11	Sunday	Discipleship	Discussion & application: What it means for our marriage to glorify God
Oct 14	Wednesday	Discipleship	You and Me Forever - Marriage in Light of the Gospel
Oct 18	Sunday	Discipleship	Discussion & application: Loving, forgiving & extending grace through the gospel
Oct 21	Wednesday	Discipleship	You and Me Forever - Marriage in Light of Our Mission
Oct 25	Sunday	Discipleship	Discussion & application: Discerning the mission and purpose of our "Us"
Oct 28	Wednesday	Discipleship	You and Me Forever - Marriage in Light of Eternity Final discussion & application: living and loving with an eternal perspective

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HOW THE WEEKLY RHYTHM WORKS

One conversation, carried across the week

WEDNESDAY - SEE IT

Watch the RightNow Media study and begin the conversation.

BETWEEN SESSIONS - SIT WITH IT

Reflect personally and, where appropriate, together. Bring your companion guide back Sunday.

SUNDAY - WORK THROUGH IT

Go deeper through discussion, biblical application, and practical exercises.

DURING THE WEEK - LIVE IT

Practice one intentional action in your relationship.

MEETING INFORMATION

Sundays: 9:15-10:15 AM, between services, in **Room 116**.

Wednesdays: 7:00 PM through Hope University Zoom. Registered participants will receive the information needed to join the weekly online session.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF COUPLES CONNECT

- *Come ready to participate*, not simply observe.
- Complete the between-session reflection before Sunday *whenever possible*.
- *Speak from your own experience* instead of using the group to correct your spouse.
- *Protect confidentiality*. Stories shared in the room should not become conversation outside the room.
- You may participate even when your spouse is not present. *Growth is still possible when one person chooses to apply what they are learning*.
- *Do not force disclosure*. You may keep personal reflections private and share only what feels appropriate.

COUPLES CONNECT COVENANT

This semester, we commit to creating a space marked by respect, confidentiality, honesty, grace, personal responsibility, and growth. We will resist spouse-bashing, avoid comparison, honor different seasons of marriage, and remain open to what God may want to show us about ourselves.

Our commitment for this semester:
