

SESSION 4 | WEDNESDAY - SEE IT

What Do You Think Is the Purpose of Marriage?

Examining what we believe our marriage is for

BIG IDEA

The purpose we assign to marriage shapes what we expect from it and how we steward our “us”.

BEFORE THE VIDEO

If someone asked, "What is marriage for?" what would your first answer be?

AS YOU WATCH

What does the session invite you to reconsider about the purpose of marriage and the purpose of your us?

AFTER THE VIDEO

What stood out to you most?

What challenged or stretched your thinking?

What is one question you want to carry with you until Sunday?

COUPLES CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2026 COMPANION WORKBOOK

BETWEEN NOW & SUNDAY | SIT WITH IT

Do not rush these questions. Notice what they surface. Pray, write, and share with your spouse only what you are comfortable sharing.

1. WHAT DID I EXPECT MARRIAGE TO GIVE ME?

What expectations did I bring about happiness, companionship, security, family, intimacy, status, or fulfillment? Which of those expectations have I quietly made my spouse responsible for fulfilling?

2. WHAT HAVE WE MADE THE GOAL?

What seems to drive our relationship most right now - comfort, achievement, parenting, survival, connection, faith, service, something else? If someone watched how we spend our time, money, energy, and attention, what would they conclude our marriage is centered on?

3. WHAT IS GOD FORMING IN US?

How might our relationship be shaping our character, faith, patience, sacrifice, or capacity to love? Where might God be using marriage not simply to make me happier, but to make me more loving, patient, humble, faithful, forgiving, and Christlike?

4. WHO BENEFITS FROM OUR US?

How is our marriage affecting our children, family, church, friendships, community, and the people who watch how we love one another?

5. WHAT PURPOSE DO WE WANT TO LIVE TOWARD?

What sentence would we want to describe the kind of marriage we are intentionally building?

*Hope Couples Ministry companion material was created to support participation in **Us in Mind** by Ted Lowe. This guide is original ministry application material and does not reproduce or replace the original study.*

COUPLES CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2026 COMPANION WORKBOOK

SESSION 4 | SUNDAY - WORK THROUGH IT

What Do You Think Is the Purpose of Marriage?

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TODAY'S INNER-REFLECTION QUESTION

How does your definition of the purpose of marriage change what you expect from your spouse?

CONNECT THE DOTS

PURPOSE -> EXPECTATIONS -> PRIORITIES -> CHOICES -> SHARED IMPACT

Where do you recognize this pattern in your own thinking or relationship?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What did you discover about what you expected marriage to give you?
2. What happens when I expect my spouse to provide something only God can ultimately supply?
3. How can an unclear or unspoken purpose create conflict between two people who both love each other?
4. What is the difference between asking, "Is this marriage making me happy?" and asking, "Who are we becoming through this marriage?"
5. If God wanted to use our marriage beyond us, what might that look like?

PERSONAL PRACTICE | DEFINE IT. ALIGN IT. LIVE IT.

1. What do I believe the purpose of our marriage is?
2. Do our current priorities reflect the purpose we say we value?
3. What is **one** choice we can make this week that moves our marriage toward that purpose?

SCRIPTURE CONNECTION

Reflect on: **Ephesians 5:1-2; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Write One Purpose Statement. Choose One Aligned Action. Pray Over Your Us.
