

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has lasting impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

Marriage Is Bigger than You

Read Ephesians 1:19-20.

Imagine, the God who created everything, and what His eternal, good, awesome plan is – for your marriage! And yet, how often do we try to do things our way, on our own? In order to experience all that God desires, there are some things we must understand.

Whether you're married or not,

ALL relationships have 3 common stress points:

- **Unexpected differences**
- **Unmet needs**
- **Unforgiven mistakes**

None of these are easy, but the same power God used to raise Christ from the dead is available for us in our relationships.

Considering these 3 stress points, here are three vital truths:

1. In those unexpected differences, God can give us the power to FATHOM each other's differences.

'Fathom' means 'to understand the depth of something.' We must understand the depth of our spouse's differences. We were created to be different. We behave differently. We think differently. We're different in background. Differences bring about balance, and every marriage needs balance. What are some of the differences between you and your spouse? If you are not married, how are you different from your closest friend? How have those differences helped your relationship?

1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 24:3

2. In the waves of unfulfilled needs, God can give us the power to FULFILL our spouse's needs.

Meeting your spouse's needs is what God desires, and a skill we can learn. The root of every marriage problem is selfishness. When you were dating your spouse, what were some of the things that you would go out of your way to do? Are you still doing those things? If you are not married, are there things you do in your relationships with others that put the focus on the other person?

1 Corinthians 7:3; Philippians 2:4; Philippians 2:13

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3. In the pain of yesterday's mistakes, God will give us the power to FORGIVE our spouse's mistakes.

You are not perfect, and when you get married, you are not marrying a perfect person. God made your spouse the way they are for a purpose. He brought you together for a reason. He wants your marriage to show others what His unconditional love looks like. Are you holding anything against your spouse? Or a friend? Do you have a hard time forgiving others?

Proverbs 21:19; Colossians 3:13

Make it Real

- If you have not yet met Jesus, talk with your spouse, a close friend or a pastor today.
- Let Jesus change your heart by spending time in His Word each day this week.
- Sign up for Marriage Date Night, February 24.