

Session 1: Marriage in Light of God’s Glory

INTRODUCTION

Today’s session will challenge your group to consider how they can create a Christ-centered, eternity-minded marriage. Each person should have already been introduced to this topic by reading the Introduction and Chapter 1 in *You and Me Forever*. There may be some who have not yet read the material. Encourage them to go back and read the Introduction and Chapter 1 as well as Chapter 2 before the next time you meet.

Watch Session 1: *Marriage in Light of God’s Glory* (16 minutes)

RE-VIEW:

One of the first things you’ll notice about this video series is that it’s filmed in Francis and Lisa Chan’s garage. That was intentional since they wanted to communicate that they too have to work on their marriage and struggle every day against sin. They said they wanted the background to “reflect who we are—people in process.”

Why is it important for us, in this small group, to likewise be honest about our own lives and marriage relationships? How can we create an environment where people feel safe to be authentic?

Not one of us has a perfect marriage. We all have areas where we can grow. The goal of this study is to have God do something powerful in our lives and in our marriages, all for His glory. Take some time up front to remind people about the importance of confidentiality in your group, and about being sensitive to others as they share about the struggles and successes in their relationships.

Francis and Lisa mentioned that one of the primary reasons they wrote *You and Me Forever* was to encourage people to look at their marriage with an eternal perspective.

How does looking at your marriage in light of eternity change your perspective?

Francis said in the video that understanding we are here for a brief period of time should change everything about our lives; that we should invest our marriages on things that matter for eternity.

How are you currently “investing your marriage”? What might have to change in order for you to invest your marriage in things of eternal value?

Have someone read 2 Peter 3:10–12.

How do these verses impact the way we live in marriage?

Francis and Lisa talked about the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and in our marriage. They encouraged us with 1 John 4:4, “...the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” But they also

mentioned that building a God-honoring marriage requires intentional effort on our part.

Have someone read Philippians 2:12–13 and someone else read 2 Peter 1:5–8.

What do these verses teach us about our responsibility in our marriage relationship?

In the book Francis and Lisa write, “...our marriage problems are not really marriage problems. They are heart problems. They are God problems. Our lack of intimacy with God causes a void that we try to fill with the frailest of substitutes. Like wealth or pleasure. Like fame or respect. Like people. Like marriage.” (pg. 27)

And in the video we just watched, Francis mentioned that life really isn’t about us or our marriages. Everything, including our marriage, should bring glory to God.

Does your marriage bring glory to God? Why or why not? What does a marriage that brings glory to God look like?

Francis and Lisa ended this video session talking primarily about our priorities. Lisa said, *“Think about marriage and life. Who are we here for? Who put us here and designed us and designed marriage, for His glory, for His purposes? It’s not about us. I think we just want you to pause, and change your thinking a little bit...what does God want? Let’s just think about God for a minute, because this is all about His glory.”*

Take a moment to honestly consider this next question. **Is God your first priority, even over your marriage?**

What gets in the way of making your relationship with God your first priority?

One thing Francis and Lisa are very passionate about—both in the book and in the video—is that we take what we learn in this series and actually apply it to our lives. Have someone read James 1:22.

How will your actions change this coming week because of what you heard and studied today?
