

GROUP

→ *Video Experience* ←

TONY EVANS KINGDOM MARRIAGE

CONNECTING GOD'S PURPOSE
WITH YOUR PLEASURE

FOCUS[®]
ON
THE **FAMILY**



TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC.
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*Kingdom Marriage Group Video Experience
Participant's Guide*

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WELCOME, KINGDOM COUPLES!

Marriage is under attack, according to Dr. Tony Evans. The key to building a relationship that survives and thrives is to embrace God's original purpose for marriage.

Kingdom marriage is a covenantal union between a man and a woman who commit themselves to function in unison under divine authority in order to replicate God's image and expand His rule in the world through their individual calling.

The pursuit of a kingdom marriage will expand your vision of how a marital relationship should function and what it can accomplish. As you work your way through the DVD sessions and this guide, you'll discover Bible-based principles for reigniting the spark in your relationship. You'll also learn what God can do with two people who are fiercely devoted to Him—and to one another.

At the core of each session is a video presentation featuring Dr. Evans, author of *Kingdom Marriage*. Dr. Evans' inspired teaching will give spouses new insights into their relationship as well as their potential.

To make these truths come alive, you'll find these sections in each session:

The Gathering

Read this brief excerpt to focus on the subject at hand. Answer the questions that follow the passage. If you run out of time, finish the section at home.

Show Time!

Use this section as you view and think about the DVD presentation; it includes thought-provoking questions and biblical input.

Transformation Moments

This brief wrap-up will help you find encouragement and ideas for applying the teaching to your own marriage.

Note: The DVD presentations and this guide are intended as general advice only, and are not meant to replace clinical counseling, medical treatment, legal counsel, or pastoral guidance.

Focus on the Family maintains a referral network of Christian counselors. For information, call 1-800-A FAMILY (1-800-232-6459) and ask for the counseling department.

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FINDING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

The Main Point

When you treat your marriage as a covenant with God, everything else—including love, happiness, satisfaction, and fulfillment—will fall into place.

The Gathering

To find out more about God's purpose for marriage, read the following excerpt from *Kingdom Marriage*. If you have time, answer the questions that appear at the end of the selection.

Or you can finish the section at home.



YOUR TRUE PURPOSE


Passion matters and happiness is great, but rather than being the purpose for marriage, they are benefits. Marriage exists to glorify God by expanding

His rule and reach. It uniquely reflects His image like nothing else. When you pursue God's purpose as a couple, then everything else you value in life—such as happiness, love, and satisfaction—will fall into place. . . .

The problem today is that we have transposed the benefit of marriage with the goal, so that when the benefit—happiness—is not working out, we quit and move on, or we resign ourselves to living a life of unhappiness. A large percentage of marriages end in divorce, and many couples who remain together do so out of economic or practical constraints, not love and a shared purpose. Again, kingdom couples share a purpose, not just passion. Emotions change, but the purpose remains and is what can tie two people together until death do they part. . . .

Marriage is not merely a social contract; it is a sacred covenant. It is not simply a means of looking for love, happiness, and fulfillment. Those things are important; in fact, they are critical. But they are not the most important or the most critical. Yet because we have put second things first, as important as second things are, we're having trouble living out either. When God's purpose and principles for marriage are undermined, His image becomes distorted, and our ability to influence others on God's behalf erodes.

Kingdom couples must view marriage through God's kingdom lens. A kingdom marriage is defined as "a covenantal union between a man and a woman who commit themselves to function in unison under divine authority in order to replicate God's image and expand His rule in the world through both their individual and joint callings."¹



If someone had asked you on your wedding day what the purpose of marriage is, what would you have said? Who or what influenced and shaped your view of marriage—for better or worse? What would happen to your relationship if you focused more on advancing God's kingdom and less on finding your own happiness and fulfillment?

Show Time!

In session 1 of the *Kingdom Marriage Group Video Experience*, Dr. Evans lays out God's purpose for marriage and Satan's plan to thwart that purpose.



After viewing Tony Evans' presentation, "Finding God's Purpose for Your Marriage," use the following questions to help you think through what you saw and heard.

1. Dr. Evans says, "Kingdom marriage is defined as 'a covenantal union between a man and a woman who commit themselves to function in unison under divine authority in order to replicate God's image and expand His rule in the world through both their individual and joint callings.'"

Which of the following words describe your reaction to this definition of marriage as God intends it to be?

Check the boxes of the ones that apply or write in your own responses.

- overwhelmed
- excited
- unprepared
- optimistic
- confident
- curious
- desperate
- doubtful
- willing
- uncertain
- ashamed
- thankful
- eager
- ready
- other _____
- other _____
- other _____

In one sentence, explain the emotion that's hitting you hardest as you begin this study of kingdom marriage.

2. The Bible describes God's purpose for marriage in Genesis 1:26: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

How would our world be different if all couples took their kingdom marriage covenant seriously?

What would change in your world—in your marriage, your home, your circle of influence—if you and your spouse committed to a relationship that actively seeks to mirror God and expand His rule in the world?

3. Which of the following areas of conflict have caused problems in your marriage? Check the boxes of the ones that apply or write in your own.
 - finances
 - sexual intimacy