



## God's Purposes for Marriage Bible Study

[Please provide: a copy of this study for each participant, Bibles, and copies of the *Lutheran Service Book* (LSB).]

**Opening Prayer:** Gracious God, we praise and honor You for instituting marriage to be a picture of the communion between Christ and His bride, the Church. Forgive us for the many ways we have fallen short in marriage and family life. We ask that You bless all homes in our land, that they may be shelters for the defenseless, a fortress for the tempted, a resting place for the weary, and a foretaste of our eternal home with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### To Begin

If you have been or are now married, how did you go about looking for a life-long mate? \_\_\_\_\_

According to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, the average age for first marriages for U.S. women in 2017 was 27.4 years old. For men, it's 29.5 years old. In 1990, the average age of marriage for U.S. women was 24 years old; in 1980 it was 22 years old, and in the 1950's, it was 20 years old ("This Is The Average Age of Marriage Right Now," Macaela MacKenzie, *Women's Health*, March 26, 2018). Why do you think the average age for first marriages has increased? \_\_\_\_\_

If you were 18-years-old and looking for a spouse, what top three qualities would you seek?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think are the two or three main reasons why God instituted marriage?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Searching Scripture

Read "Holy Matrimony," Lutheran Service Book (LSB), page 275.

**The first purpose of marriage** is to be a picture of the communion between Christ and His \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Ephesians 5:22–33.

- a) In contrast to the culture of that day, husbands are taught not to \_\_\_\_\_ their wives, but to love them.
- b) The purpose of Christ dying for His bride was to \_\_\_\_\_ her.
- c) To be without spot or wrinkle is to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) The first assignment of the Church and of earthly brides is to \_\_\_\_\_ her husband's sacrificial love.
- e) What does it mean for a husband to leave his father and mother? \_\_\_\_\_

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True or False: The ultimate purpose of earthly marriage is to give glory to God. \_\_\_\_\_

**The second purpose of marriage** is for \_\_\_\_\_ help and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity and \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Proverbs 31:10–31.

What do we learn from the following verses about a wife with noble character:

- a) Verse 11: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Verse 12: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Verses 13–27: \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Verses 28–29: \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Verses 30–31: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Proverbs 1:7. According to this verse, the beginning of knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_

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How is this kind of knowledge (wisdom) beneficial in marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

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**The third purpose of marriage** is to find a Christ-centered \_\_\_\_\_ in each other. Read Judges 14:1–3. Name three mistakes Samson made when he searched for a life-long mate.

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In what ways do a Christian husband and wife “delight” in each other? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is such delight an important part of marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Colossians 3:12–17.

Virtues are not ours to accomplish, but are \_\_\_\_\_

Why should we forgive others? \_\_\_\_\_

Why bear with each other? \_\_\_\_\_

Why be patient and kind with each other? \_\_\_\_\_

Why love one another? \_\_\_\_\_

Why serve one another? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are the virtues described in Colossians 3:12–13 so important in marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

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**The fourth purpose of marriage** is for the procreation of children who are to be brought up in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.

How do the Bible passages referred to in the first three purposes of marriage aid in the raising of children who fear and love the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sing:** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” LSB 649, TLH 975, LW 464

**Closing Prayer:** Almighty and everlasting God, we pray for all who search for a life-long mate in these days. Work in their hearts a confidence that You work everything out for the good of those who love You. Help them to be patient, wise, and mature in the choices they make. Help them to flee youthful lusts and to find their refuge and strength in You and You alone. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

God’s Purposes for Marriage  
*Written by Pastor Larry Griffin, Janesville, MN*  
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