

Marriage God's Way Conference

Pastor Scott LaPierre

Name of church or location

Schedule

Friday

7:00PM—Session 1: *Temptations Facing Husbands and Wives*

Saturday

9:30AM—Session 2: *A Husband's Love*

10:30AM—Break/Table Talk/Discussion Questions

11:00AM—Session 3: *A Wife's Submission*

12:00PM—Lunch

1:30PM—Session 4: *How Husbands Should Treat Their Wives*

2:30PM— Break/Table Talk/Discussion Questions

3:00PM—Session 5: *How Wives Should Respect Their Husbands*

4:00PM—Questions and Answers

5:00PM—Dinner

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Each message has accompanying discussion questions I would encourage you to engage in with your spouse at a later time. The following information is taken from the *Marriage God's Way Workbook* and will help you receive the most benefit from your times of discussion.

Expect Tension

In Chapter 2 of *Marriage God's Way*, the third section, “Embrace the Struggle,” says:

As you work through this book, recognize the tension created in your marriage is a good thing. God is introducing areas that need to be improved, and the best way to do that is by asking each other tough questions.

This will be even truer as you ask each other the discussion questions. Whenever you experience tension, remember God is at work strengthening weak areas of your relationship!

Focus on the Way Your Spouse Feels

Many questions contain the word “feels.” This is because:

- It is not a question of whether a husband *thinks* he loves his wife. It is a question of whether his wife *feels* loved.
- It is not a question of whether a wife *thinks* she respects her husband. It is a question of whether her husband *feels* respected.

Consider these two passages from *Marriage God's Way*:

1. In Chapter 10 the sixth section, “Perception Is Reality,” records: “Note the emphasis here is how a wife *feels*. A husband might insist: ‘My wife is the supreme relationship in my life. She is more important than anything else.’ But the wife might not feel that way. A wife’s perception is her reality. It is not about what the husband says or even thinks but about what the wife feels.”
2. Chapter 11 discusses wives respecting their husbands, and the fifth section, “Learning, Then Embracing” records: “A wife who does [these things] will have a husband who feels very respected.”

Focus on the way your spouse feels. Then, after learning how your spouse feels, make the appropriate changes to help your spouse feel differently. The poor alternative is trying to talk your husband or wife out of feeling the way he or she feels. The section, “Embrace the Struggle,” also says:

A husband might say, “Outside of the Lord Himself, do you feel you are taking second place to anything in my life?” If a wife answers that she does not feel she is the supreme relationship in her husband’s life, the husband should not try to talk her out of the way she feels or persuade her

to see things differently. Likewise, a wife might ask her husband, “Do you feel I respect you?” If the husband explains how she makes him feel disrespected, the wife should not argue with her husband and try to convince him he is wrong. Instead, each spouse should listen to the other and try to make the appropriate changes.

Similarly, if your husband or wife is hurt by something you have done, do not try to make him or her feel wrong. When hearing your spouse’s thoughts, commit to not interrupting or arguing. If you understand how your spouse feels, then you will learn to treat him or her the way he or she wants to be treated.

Crucify Your Flesh and Apologize the Right Way

As you and your spouse ask each other the tough questions, you are going to hear answers that reveal your weaknesses, hurts you have caused, and ways you have failed. Your flesh will flare up and threaten the work God wants to do in your marriage. Stay on guard against your sinful nature tempting you to get angry. Do not let pride have victories in your marriage!

Instead, humble yourself and ask for forgiveness the right way. Some people—whether intentionally or unintentionally—act like they are apologizing, but their “apologies” are simply ways of making excuses and shifting blame. This only serves to increase frustration and hurt. Sincere apologies have the opposite effect—they diffuse aggression and prevent bitterness. Proverbs 15:1a says, “A soft answer turns away wrath” and there are not many softer answers than apologies made the right way. To do this, make sure you avoid two words:

1. Avoid the word “but.” When an “apology” contains this word, it is an excuse disguised as a confession:
 - “I’m sorry, BUT if they hadn’t done that...”
 - “I am sorry, BUT this happened...”
 - “I’m sorry, BUT I never would’ve done this if not for...”
2. Avoid the word “you.” When an “apology” contains this word, it is a manipulative way for people to shift blame, and make the other person feel bad about being hurt or upset:
 - “I’m sorry YOU did this...”
 - “Well, I’m sorry YOU are mad...”
 - “I’m sorry YOU are offended...”

Instead, make sure you apologize the right way. This involves two steps:

1. First, say: “I am sorry for . . .” or “I am sorry I . . .” followed by the offense you committed.
2. Then, say: “Will you please forgive me?”

The second step is important because it:

- Shows you recognize you have done something requiring forgiveness

- Shows you are not minimizing your actions
- Engages the other person and requires a response

Finally, if your spouse asks for forgiveness and you say, “I forgive you,” you are obligated to do your best to forgive the way God forgives. God does not forget our sins, but He does choose not to remember them:

- Isaiah 43:25b—I will not remember your sins.
- Jeremiah 31:34b—I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.
- Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17—Their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no more.

When you say, “I forgive you,” you are committing to do your best to:

- Not remember your spouse’s sin
- Not hold the sin against your spouse
- Refuse to bring up the sin in the future

Thank you for the privilege of sharing God’s Word with you! My prayer is that our time together will give you *A Biblical Recipe for a Healthy, Joyful, Christ-Centered Relationship*.

God bless,
Scott LaPierre
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Session 1—*Temptations Facing Husbands and Wives*

Lesson 1: As we begin, make the decision to:

- (Part I) Focus on _____ more than your spouse's.
- (Part II) Turn your frustrations _____.
- (Part III) Recognize your marriage is a reflection of your _____
with _____.

Lesson 2: God created headship before _____ (Genesis 2:16-17).

Lesson 3: Wives are tempted to:

- (Part I) _____ their husbands (Genesis 3:16 cf. 4:7).
- (Part II) _____ their husbands (Proverbs 19:13b, 21:9, 19, 25:24, 27:15–16).

Lesson 4: Husbands are tempted to:

- (Part I) Be _____ (Genesis 3:16).
- (Part II) _____ their wives (Colossians 3:19; Genesis 3:16).
- (Part III) Be _____ (Genesis 3:17).

Lesson 5: Reverse the effects of The Fall by _____ God's _____ for marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Husband asks wife:

- Do you feel like I am stubborn?
- Do you feel like I am harsh or authoritarian with you?
- Do you feel like I am passive?

Wife asks husband:

- Do you feel like I try to control you?
- Do you feel like I nag you?
- Do you feel like I stir you up for good...or evil?

Session 2—A Husband's Love

Lesson 1: Husbands love their wives by _____ them with the _____ (Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3, 17:17).

Lesson 2: Husbands love their wives by setting the _____ for _____ in the home.

Lesson 3: Husbands get the wives they _____ for _____ (Ephesians 5:27; Galatians 5:19–23, 6:7).

Lesson 4: Husbands love their wives by _____ as _____ about them as they are about themselves (Ephesians 5:28–29; Genesis 2:23–24).

Lesson 5: (Part I) Wives must feel like the _____ in their

husband's life, (Part II) which can take _____ things from the

husband's life (Ephesians 5:31; Matthew 5:29, 18:9).

Lesson 6: Think of how Jesus loved _____ (Matthew 13:44–46; Romans 3:11; Hebrews 12:2).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Husband asks wife:

- Do you feel like I love you? What do I do that makes you feel loved? What do I do that makes you feel unloved?
- Do you feel like I take care of you as well as I take care of myself?
- Do you feel like the supreme relationship in my life?

Wife asks husband:

- What do I do that makes it easy to love me? What do I do that makes it hard to love me?
- Do we have anything in our home that should be removed, because it is threatening our holiness?
- What fruit of the Spirit or works of the flesh do you see in me that characterize my life?

Session 3—A Wife's Submission

Lesson 1: Submission is _____ (Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3).

Lesson 2: Submission is not:

- (Part I) Done _____ and _____.
- (Part II) A matter of _____ (John 6:38; Matthew 26:39).

Lesson 3: Submission means:

- (Part I) Husbands still _____ to their _____ (Genesis 2:18).
- (Part II) A wife puts her husband in a _____ to _____.
- (Part III) A wife _____ her husband even though she disagrees with him.
- (Part IV) A wife _____ (1 Peter 3:5–6).
- (Part V) A wife keeps her strength _____.

Lesson 4: (Part I) Husbands _____ when they're wrong (Part II) and wives shouldn't say, "_____!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Husband asks wife:

- How do I make it hard for you to submit to me?
- How do I make it easier for you to submit to me?
- Do you feel like I listen to your thoughts when it comes to making decisions?
- Do you feel like I admit when I'm wrong, or do I make excuses and shift blame?

Wife asks husband:

- Do you feel like I submit "kicking and screaming"?
- Do you feel like I put you in a position to lead?
- Do you feel like I take control of situations or decisions that should be left to you?
- Do you feel like I say, "I told you so!"?

Session 4—*How Husbands Should Treat Their Wives*

Lesson 1: Remember listening is _____ (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 8:21; John 13:17; James 1:22, 4:17).

Lesson 2: Husbands treat their wives well by:

- (Part I) _____ them (1 Peter 3:7a).
- (Part II) _____ them (1 Peter 3:7b).
- (Part III) Recognizing they're the _____ (1 Peter 3:7c).
- (Part IV) Being _____ (1 Peter 3:7d; Matthew 7:19; Luke 13:7).

Lesson 3: Husbands mistreat their wives by:

- (Part I) Responding in _____ (Genesis 30:1–2).
- (Part II) Responding in _____ (1 Samuel 1:6–8; Proverbs 25:20).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Husband asks wife:

- Do you feel like I strive to learn about you and understand you?
- Do you feel like I honor you for your femininity?
- Do you feel like I make your submission easier by being a spiritual man?
- Do you feel like I respond to you in anger or pride?

Wife asks husband:

- Do you feel like I try to be a consistent wife so it's easier to understand me?
- Do you feel like I strive to be feminine?
- Thinking about the account with Rachel and Jacob, do you feel like I:
 - Act melodramatically like she did?
 - Take my frustrations out on you?
 - Covet what other women have?

Session 5—*How Wives Should Respect Their Husbands*

Lesson 1: Husbands must feel like their wives _____ (Ephesians 5:33; Proverbs 31:11–12, 23).

Lesson 2: Wives can _____ their husbands without _____ them (1 Samuel 18:20; 1 Peter 3:5; 2 Samuel 6:16, 20–22).

Lesson 3: Disrespect can _____ a husband's _____ toward his wife (2 Samuel 6:23, 3:12–13).

Lesson 4: Husbands can make respecting _____.

Lesson 5: Wives respect their husbands by making their _____
_____ easier.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Husband asks wife:

- Do you feel like my feelings toward you have changed in a positive way from you respecting me, or in a negative way from you disrespecting me?
- What do I do that makes it easier for you to respect me?
- What do I do that makes it harder for you to respect me?
- Do you feel like I withhold affection from you like David did with Michal?

Wife asks husband:

- Do you feel like I respect you?
- What do I do that makes you feel respected?
- What do I do that makes you feel disrespected?
- Do you feel like I talk down to you like Michal did with David?

About the Speaker



Scott LaPierre and his wife, Katie, grew up together in McArthur, California, and they have been blessed with seven children. After college, Scott served as an Army officer before becoming an elementary school teacher.

While teaching, Scott began working part time as an associate pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Lemoore, California. When the church grew, he was hired full time and remained there until becoming the senior pastor of Woodland Christian Church in Woodland, Washington, in 2010. He enjoys spending time with both his home and church families and studying and teaching God's Word.

You can contact Pastor Scott, learn more about him, or subscribe to his newsletter at the following:

- Email: scott@scottlapierre.org
- Website: www.scottlapierre.org
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Would you (or your church) like to host a Marriage God's Way Conference?

- **Schedule**—Typically there is one session on Friday evening and four sessions on Saturday, but there is flexibility to keep the conference to one day, stretch it over three days, and/or add Q&A sessions.
- **Outreach**—Consider viewing the conference as an outreach that strengthens marriages and shares Christ with your community. Pastor Scott can run a Facebook ad, and/or set up a Facebook event page to share with others.
- **Compensation**—Scott is thankful to be compensated by having copies of his book and workbook purchased for those attending.