

LifeGroup Sermon Series Study

2019-2020

Series Three

IMPACT CENTER

LOVE & WAR

THE MARRIAGE GAMES



LIFEWATER
COMMUNITY CHURCH



There is no question about it - stable societies are made up of healthy and stable families. Healthy and stable families are impacted by one overwhelming factor ... intact marriages. Children from families with both biological parents still married have the highest graduation rate and are more engaged in school. They are also less likely to live in poverty, to become a teen parent, be arrested, or be unemployed.

Today there is good and bad news related to marriages. The divorce rate is down, but so is the rate of marriage. In addition, children are growing up in fractured families. In 1960, 73 percent of children lived with parents still in their first marriage, 14 percent of children lived with parents from their second marriage, and 4 percent lived with no parent. But in 2014, only 46 percent of children lived with parents still in their first marriage, 7 percent lived with cohabiting parents, 26 percent lived with a single parent, and 5 percent with no parent.

The divorce rate is down, but more children are being brought up in single parent and cohabiting homes. So how do you survive the difficult times? How do you make and keep a marriage good? Why would, or should, someone take a chance on getting married?

This series is about how to deal with marriages effectively - from a biblical perspective. The scripture is very clear about marriage roles. Scripture reveals what husbands should do when getting married, and the original intent of marriage. Scripture addresses the sexual relationship in marriage, the importance of faithfulness, how to deal with a spiritually divided marriage and dealing with conflicts in marriage.

We will be tackling these and many other tough subjects related to marriage. The goal is for married couples to implement biblical principles to make marriage and society better.

Pastor Doug

LIFEGROUP ROSTER

NAME	PHONE #	E-MAIL

“Love and War-The Marriage Games: Husbands Leave Home”

Genesis 2:24

Lesson #1

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand why it is important for husbands to leave home.
- B. To help us know how to build a new family.
- C. To help us see the new responsibility husbands have.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message:
- B. Sermon outline: “Love and War-The Marriage Games: Husbands Leave Home” - Genesis 2:24
 - 1. Three ways a young married man should leave home:
 - a. (Simply) leave home physically.
 - b. Leave home mentally and (Socially).
 - c. Leave home emotionally and (Spiritually).

Lesson 1 cont.

- C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

- D. Additional scriptures to look at: Psalms 45:10; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. What problems could develop with the husband's parents if a husband would does not leave his parent's home when getting married?

- B. What problems could develop with the newly married couple if a husband does not leave his parent's home?

- C. Why does it not instruct a wife to leave her parent's home after marriage?

- D. What are some of the differences between sons and daughters growing up and becoming independent?

Lesson 1 cont.

- E. How can husbands leave home mentally? Socially?

- F. What does it look like for a husband to leave home emotionally?

- G. What does a husband creating his own home spiritually look like?

- H. So what should the newly married couple's home look like relationally with both sets of parents? Step parents?

V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about what their next step should be.

Lesson 1 cont.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people have shared they want to take, requests made in the past not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are Ephesians 5:21-29a.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

Notes:

“Love and War-The Marriage Games: Roles in Marriage”

Ephesians 5:21-29a

Lesson 2

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand how important husbands and wives’ roles are in marriage.
- B. To help us know how to fulfill our roles as husbands and wives in marriage.
- C. To help us see how marriage is an example of the relationship that God wants to have with us.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message:
- B. Sermon outline: “Love and War-The Marriage Games: The Roles in Marriage” – Ephesians 5:21-29a
 - 1. Three roles of a wife. Ephesians 5:21-24
 - a. (Submit) to your husband the (Same) as to the Lord.
 - b. (Submit) like the Church (Submits) to Christ.

Lesson 2 cont.

c. The (Submission) (Should) be in everything.

2. Three Roles of a husband. Ephesians 5:21, 25-29a

a. Submit to your wife out of (Love) and respect for Christ.

b. (Love) your wife as Christ (Loved) the church.

c. (Love) in the same way husbands (Love) themselves.

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: Ecclesiastes 9:9;

I Corinthians 11:3; 16:14; Colossians 3:19; I Timothy 3:11,

I Timothy 5:8; Titus 2:4-5; I Peter 3:1 & 7.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. What is your reaction to the roles of husbands and wives?

Lesson 2 cont.

- B. Which role do you appreciate the most?

- C. Which role do you resent the most?

- D. Why did God set the roles of husbands and wives this way?

- E. What has been your observation or experience when these roles are not followed?

- F. What do you think are the motivations for not following the biblical model for husbands and wives?

- G. What are we communicating to others when we live out the roles for husbands and wives?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

Lesson 2 cont.

VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about what their next step should be.
- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people have shared they want to take, requests made in the past not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are Mark 10:8-12.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

Notes:

“Love and War-The Marriage Games: The Permanency of Marriage”

Matthew 5:31-32 & Mark 10:8-12

Lesson 3

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand that the marriage commitment is for life.
- B. To help us know how much God hates divorce.
- C. To help us see there are serious consequences with divorce.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message:
- B. Sermon outline: “Love and War-The Marriage Games: The Permanency of Marriage” - Matthew 5:31-32 & Mark 10:8-12
- C. Three principles regarding the permanency of marriage:
 - 1. God has joined a (Married) couple to (Be) together for life.
Mark 10:9 & Malachi 2:13-16

Lesson 3 cont.

2. Anyone who divorces and (Marries) another (Both) commit adultery. Mark 10:4-12

 3. (Marital) unfaithfulness is the only grounds for (Breaking) the vow of marriage. Matthew 5:31-32
- D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?
- E. Additional scriptures to look at: Proverbs 18:22;
Song of Solomon 4:9; Matthew 19:6-9; Romans 7:3;
I Corinthians 13:13; I Peter 4:8.

IV. **Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**

- A. Why did God create husband and wife to have a lifelong marriage with only one partner?

- B. What was the one exception for being released from the marriage commitment?

Lesson 3 cont.

- C. Why does God hate divorce so much according to Malachi 2:16?

- D. Why did Moses permit men to divorce their wives?

- E. Was Moses right or wrong for letting this happen?

- F. Why does God accuse a person of adultery if they divorce and then remarry except for marital unfaithfulness? Or a single person who marries a divorced person?

- G. Why did God say that marital unfaithfulness was the only exception to divorce?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about what their next step should be.

Lesson 3 cont.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people have shared they want to take, requests made in the past not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are 1 Corinthians 7:1-8.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

Notes:

“Love and War-The Marriage Games: Sex within Marriage”

I Corinthians 7:1-8

Lesson 4

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand why God created the sexual relationship for husband and wife.
- B. To help us know the boundaries for how this sexual relationship should work.
- C. To help us see from the creator how sex works best in a relationship.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message:
- B. Sermon outline: “Love and War-The Marriage Games: Sex within Marriage” - I Corinthians 7:1-8.
- C. Four Principles regarding sex in marriage:
 - 1. The (Sexual) relationship is exclusively for married husband and wives only.

Lesson 4 cont.

2. Husbands and wives (Should) fulfill their (Sexual) duties to each other.

3. The married couple's bodies belong to the (Spouse).

4. Temporarily depriving each other (Sexually) is permitted under certain conditions.

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Proverbs 2:16-22;
Song of Solomon 7:6-12; I Corinthians 6:18;
I Thessalonians 4:3-5; Hebrews 13:4.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. Why did God create the sexual relationship?

Lesson 4 cont.

- B. Why did God create it to be exclusively for married men and women?

 - C. What benefits are there to have it this way?

 - D. How should you deal with the times when one spouse is not interested in having sex?

 - E. How do you deal with the situation when one spouse wants or enjoys sex more than the other spouse?

 - F. Is your sexual relationship difficult to discuss with your spouse? Why or why not?

 - G. What principles can be drawn from the fact that both your bodies are not your own they are your spouse's?
- V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**
If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

Lesson 4 cont.

VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about what their next step should be.
- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people have shared they want to take, requests made in the past not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are Matthew 5:27-30.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

Notes:

“Love and War-The Marriage Games: Faithfulness in Marriage”

Hebrews 13:4; Mal 2:14-15; Matthew 5:27-30

Lesson 5

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand how important faithfulness is in marriage.
- B. To help us know how destructive sexual unfaithfulness can be for all parties involved.
- C. To help us see that forgiveness and restoration is possible.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message:
- B. Sermon outline: “Love and War-The Marriage Games: Faithfulness in Marriage” - Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:27-30; Hebrews 13:4; James 1:14-15.
- C. Three Principles that guide our faithfulness in marriage:
 - 1. Be (Sexually) pure in your minds. Matthew 5:27-30
 - 2. Be (Sexually) pure physically. Hebrew 13:4

Lesson 5 cont.

3. Failing to be faithful to your (Spouse) (Sexually) (Separates) you from God. Malachi 2:13-15

D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

E. Additional scriptures to look at: Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 5:1-23, Proverbs 6:32; Matthew 15:19-20; John 8:4-11; I Corinthians 5:1; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:32.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. What are some ways we can be impure in our minds?

B. Why is it so important that our minds are pure?

C. At what point are you enticed and what should you do?

D. Why is quick and decisive action so important in being faithful in marriage?

Lesson 5 cont.

- E. Why are people not faithful in marriage?

- F. Is there only one partner at fault when a spouse is not faithful?
Why or why not?

- G. How does a couple overcome unfaithfulness in marriage?

- H. Can there ever be true forgiveness and restoration in a marriage
if there has been unfaithfulness? Why or why not?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about what their next step should be.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.

- C. Take new prayer requests.

Lesson 5 cont.

- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people have shared they want to take, requests made in the past not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are 2 Corinthians 6:14-16.

- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.

- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

Notes:

**“Love and War-The Marriage Games: A Spiritually Divided
Marriage”**

**Nehemiah 13:26; 1 Corinthians 7:12-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16
Lesson 6**

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand how important it is to agree as a married couple on what we believe.
- B. To help us know that God does not want followers of Christ to marry those who are not following Jesus.
- C. To help us see what to do if one spouse accepts Jesus as their savior and the other spouse does not.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message:
- B. Sermon outline: “Love and War-The Marriage Games: A Spiritually Divided Marriage” - Nehemiah 13:26, 1 Corinthians 7:12-17, II Corinthians 6:14-16

Lesson 6 cont.

- C. Three Principles that give insight to a spiritually divided marriage:
1. Understand that spouses that do not (Follow) Jesus can pull (Followers) away from God. Nehemiah 13:26
 2. (Followers) of Jesus should not marry those who are not (Following) Jesus. 2 Corinthians 6:14-16
 3. Remain married to your non-(Following) spouse as long as they are willing. I Corinthians 7:12-17
- D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?
- E. Additional scriptures to look at: Deuteronomy 7:3-4; Ezra 9:2, Ezra 10:11; Proverbs 31:1-31; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Timothy 1:5; James 4:4; I Peter 3:1.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. How can a girlfriend, fiancé, wife, or friend who is not a follower of Jesus pull us away from completely following Jesus?

Lesson 6 cont.

- B. Is it important to make sure when thinking about marriage you both agree on what you believe and have faith in? Why or why not?

- C. If you are considering marrying someone and everything is good except for one thing: their belief in God, you don't agree, should you get married? Why or why not?

- D. Why does God not want us to marry someone who is not following Jesus?

- E. Why does God want us to remain married to a spouse who is not following Jesus after we have accepted Christ?

- F. Why does God leave it up to the non-believing spouse whether the marriage makes it or not?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

Lesson 6 cont.

VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about what their next step should be.
- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people have shared they want to take, requests made in the past not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are Ephesians 4:26-27.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

Notes:

“Love and War-The Marriage Games: Dealing with Conflict in Marriage”

Ephesians 4:2; I Peter 4:8; Ephesians 4:24-27

Lesson 7

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand how destructive unresolved conflict is.
- B. To help us know how to productively deal with conflict in marriage.
- C. To help us see how conflict can be turned into a great learning experience.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message:
- B. Sermon outline: “Love and War-The Marriage Games: Dealing with Conflict in Marriage” - Ephesians 4:2, 24-27 & I Peter 4:8
- C. Four Principles in dealing with conflict in marriage:
 - 1. (Completely) put up with each other. Ephesians 4:2

Lesson 7 cont.

2. Love (Covers) many sins. I Peter 4:8

 3. Do not let anger (Cause) you to sin. Ephesians 4:26a

 4. Don't let (Conflict) go unresolved. Ephesians 4:26b
- D. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?
- E. Additional scriptures to look at: Proverbs 15:1; Matthew 7:5, Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:3; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:13.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. Why is it so important to resolve conflict quickly?

- B. What can happen to your marriage if you hold on to anger?

Lesson 7 cont.

- C. What prevents you from being patient and putting up with your spouse in marriage?

- D. How can love cover a sin in a marriage?

- E. So what do you do when you are extremely angry at your spouse? Is this a good thing to do?

- F. What is the best way to resolve conflict in your marriage?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share anything that God is showing them about what their next step should be.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.

- C. Take new prayer requests.

Lesson 7 cont.

- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people have shared they want to take, requests made in the past not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are Ephesians 5:21-33.

- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.

- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

Notes:

“Love and War-The Marriage Games: Celebration Sunday”

Ephesians 5:21-33

Lesson 8

I. Purpose:

- A. To celebrate what we learned about marriage in the past 7 weeks.
- B. To celebrate how God spoke to us about marriage in the last 7 weeks.
- C. To give God honor and glory due Him.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is your next step that God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you the most in the last 7 weeks?
- B. What is one thing you learned, relearned, or was reminded of as we looked at the last 7 weeks of scriptures?

Lesson 8 cont.

- C. Additional scriptures to look at: Ephesians 5:21-33.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. Before this series, what were your ideas when it came to marriage? Divorce? Adultery?

- B. What was the most important concept you learned about the husband's responsibility in marriage?

- C. What was the most important concept you learned about the wife's responsibility in marriage?

- D. What is one concept that you learned in this series that will help you talk to friends, family, or your children about marriage?

- E. How has this series helped you know how to make your marriage better?

Lesson 8 cont.

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about then what is your next step you need to take?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Spend a few minutes reviewing prayer requests your group has requested in the past. Were they answered 'yes', answered 'no', or answered 'wait'.
- B. Take new prayer requests.
- C. Go around the group and share your answer to the accountability question and then pray for the person on your right.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Luke 24:13-27.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your 5 minutes of silence each day.

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"Love and War-The Marriage Games"

PRAYER REQUESTS

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER

"Love and War-The Marriage Games"

PRAYER REQUESTS

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER

“Love and War-The Marriage Games”

PRAYER REQUESTS

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER



LIFEWATER
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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