

Marriage Builder Answer Key (Facilitator's Guide)

Facilitator Reminder: Pray before you lead, during the session, and after.

How to Use This Marriage Builder Answer Key

This answer key is written to help facilitators — whether you are a pastor, a mentor, or simply a caring friend — lead couples through The Marriage Builder with confidence. It is not designed to give “word-for-word” answers, but to provide guidance, biblical direction, and encouragement as couples work through each lesson.

Here’s how to use it:

- **Reflection Questions:** Each section includes key truths to listen for in couples’ answers. These are not the only possible responses, but they help you recognize when a couple is on the right track biblically.
- **Exercise Coaching:** These notes help you guide couples in making the activities practical, meaningful, and Spirit-led. Encourage openness and honesty, but keep pointing them back to Scripture.
- **Facilitator Notes:** Brief reminders to keep Christ central, avoid worldly wisdom, and emphasize prayer.

Pray before you lead. Pray with the couples during the sessions. Pray after you finish. The goal is not just knowledge, but transformation — homes that reflect Christ, marriages that are houses of prayer, and couples who will be a living testimony of God’s covenant love.

Marriage Builder 1: God's Covenant Design

Big Idea: Marriage is a covenant instituted by God, not a human contract.

Key Scriptures: Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6

Reflection Guidance:

- Couples should see marriage as a covenant, not a contract.
- They should recognize leaving parents and cleaving to each other as biblical loyalty.
- Answers should reflect holiness over happiness.

Missteps to Correct:

- Thinking marriage is only about personal happiness.
- Believing divorce is an easy option if things get hard.

Facilitator Notes: Emphasize that God Himself joins the couple together. Covenant is permanent.

Action Step: Write out a personal covenant promise and share it with each other.

Prayer Prompt: Lord, help us honor Your covenant design and reflect Your love in our marriage.

Marriage Builder 2: The Celebrity Illusion vs. God's Reality

Big Idea: Worldly models of love fail, but God's truth endures.

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:2; Jeremiah 17:9

Reflection Guidance:

- Couples may confess they've compared themselves to celebrity marriages.
- Look for understanding that obedience to God matters more than appearances.

Missteps to Correct:

- Believing fame or money guarantee success in marriage.
- Relying on emotions instead of God's Word.

Facilitator Notes: Contrast celebrity culture with God's unchanging Word.

Action Step: Identify one cultural lie about marriage and replace it with a specific Scripture truth.

Prayer Prompt: Father, renew our minds so we are not conformed to this world, but transformed by Your truth.

Marriage Builder 3: God's Hierarchy of Marriage

Big Idea: God designed marriage with order: Christ as head, husband as servant-leader, wife as respectful helper.

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 5:22–25

Reflection Guidance:

- Husbands should show willingness to lead sacrificially.
- Wives should reflect respect and trust in God's design.

Missteps to Correct:

- Thinking headship means dictatorship.
- Believing submission means weakness.

Facilitator Notes: Clarify that headship equals sacrifice, not abuse.
Respect equals strength, not silence.

Action Step: Write down one way to serve your spouse daily this week.

Prayer Prompt: Lord Jesus, teach us to love and respect one another as You commanded in Your Word.

Marriage Builder 4: Purity and Preparation

Big Idea: God calls couples to prepare for marriage with holiness and purity, not just outward readiness.

Key Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 2 Corinthians 7:1

Reflection Guidance:

- Purity is about honoring God with body and spirit.
- Preparation for marriage is more than financial or social—it is spiritual readiness.

Missteps to Correct:

- Thinking purity is optional or outdated.
- Focusing only on wedding plans and not on spiritual growth.

Facilitator Notes:

Encourage honesty and repentance if couples struggle with past or present purity. Remind them God offers forgiveness and a clean slate in Christ.

Action Step:

Invite couples to make a personal purity covenant before God and, if necessary, repent together through prayer.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, cleanse us and make us holy as we prepare our lives for Your covenant. Help us walk in purity and honor You.

Marriage Builder 5: Communication and Forgiveness

Big Idea: Healthy marriages thrive on honest communication and constant forgiveness.

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 4:29-32, James 1:19

Reflection Guidance:

- Words can build up or tear down—choose to build.
- Forgiveness is commanded, not optional, for lasting peace in marriage.

Missteps to Correct:

- Allowing bitterness to linger.
- Using words to wound rather than heal.

Facilitator Notes:

Highlight the importance of listening first and speaking with grace. Encourage couples to see forgiveness as an ongoing choice, not a one-time act.

Action Step:

Have couples write a short prayer or letter of forgiveness to each other, then pray together to release past hurts.

Prayer Prompt:

Father, teach us to listen, speak with love, and forgive as Christ forgave us. Heal our hearts and unite us in grace.

Marriage Builder 6: Finances and Stewardship

Big Idea: Money is a test of stewardship—God owns it all, and couples must manage it together under His Lordship.

Key Scriptures: Matthew 6:24, 1 Timothy 6:10, Proverbs 3:9

Reflection Guidance:

- Finances are a trust from God, not personal possessions.
- Unity in money decisions protects against division and strife.

Missteps to Correct:

- Treating money as mine vs. yours.
- Ignoring God's ownership and generosity.

Facilitator Notes:

Remind couples that stewardship is about honoring God with every dollar. Encourage transparency, shared goals, and generosity, not legalistic tithing.

Action Step:

Challenge couples to build a simple budget together and choose one way to be generous this week as an act of unity.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, teach us to steward Your resources wisely, in unity, and with open hands. Keep us free from the love of money.

Marriage Builder 7: Leaving and Cleaving

Big Idea: Marriage requires leaving old loyalties and cleaving to one another as God commands.

Key Scriptures: Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5

Reflection Guidance:

- Healthy boundaries must be set with parents, friends, or others.
- A new primary loyalty to spouse reflects God's order for marriage.

Missteps to Correct:

- Allowing outside influences to have more authority than the spouse.
- Failing to establish independence as a couple.

Facilitator Notes:

Encourage couples to talk openly about family or friendships that could cause conflict. Point them back to God's command to become one flesh.

Action Step:

Each spouse should identify one area where they need to 'leave' an outside influence and commit to 'cleave' more fully to their partner.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, help us to leave behind competing loyalties and fully cleave to one another as You designed.

Marriage Builder 8: Love That Reflects Christ

Big Idea: True love in marriage is a reflection of Christ's sacrificial love for the church.

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, John 15:12-13

Reflection Guidance:

- Love is not merely a feeling but a choice to serve and sacrifice.
- Christlike love endures, protects, and remains faithful.

Missteps to Correct:

- Thinking love depends only on emotions.
- Confusing lust or attraction with biblical love.

Facilitator Notes:

Remind couples that Christlike love is patient, kind, and enduring. Challenge them to show this love in action, not just in words.

Action Step:

Encourage each spouse to demonstrate one intentional act of sacrificial love this week and discuss the impact together.

Prayer Prompt:

Jesus, teach us to love one another as You have loved us—with patience, sacrifice, and faithfulness.

Marriage Builder 9: Prayer and Spiritual Unity

Big Idea: A strong marriage is built on prayer and unity in Christ.

Key Scriptures: Matthew 18:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Reflection Guidance:

- Prayer together strengthens unity and intimacy.
- Thanksgiving in prayer keeps couples focused on God's goodness and on each other.

Missteps to Correct:

- Neglecting prayer as a couple.
- Treating prayer as a last resort instead of a first priority.

Facilitator Notes:

Encourage couples to pray together 2–3 times a day, thanking God for each other and seeking His guidance. Share the statistic that only 1 in 2000 marriages end in divorce when couples pray together daily.

Action Step:

Set a daily rhythm of prayer as a couple (morning, midday, and evening), focusing on thanksgiving and unity.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, make our home a house of prayer. Teach us to thank You for each other and to seek You in all things.

Marriage Builder 10: Returning to Your First Love (Closing Word)

Big Idea: The strength of your marriage depends on keeping Christ as your first love.

Key Scriptures: Revelation 2:4, Psalm 127:1

Reflection Guidance:

- Christ must remain at the center of marriage.
- A house of prayer is sustained by daily thanksgiving and devotion.

Missteps to Correct:

- Letting busyness, culture, or self-focus replace devotion to Christ.
- Neglecting to thank God for your spouse and your covenant.

Facilitator Notes:

Encourage couples that this is not the end of a workbook but the beginning of a lifelong covenant journey. Their marriage is meant to be a testimony that reflects Christ's love for His church.

Action Step:

Write a joint prayer of thanksgiving and commitment to Christ as the foundation of your marriage. Place it somewhere visible in your home.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord Jesus, be our first love. Make our marriage a house of prayer, filled with thanksgiving and centered on You. Help us to love each other as You love us, so our home may shine as a witness to Your covenant love.

Appendix: Facilitator Helps

This appendix provides quick reference tools and guidance for facilitators.

Quick Reference Scriptures:

- Marriage Covenant: Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:6
- Prayer: Matthew 18:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Forgiveness: Colossians 3:13, Matthew 6:14-15
- Unity: Ephesians 4:2-3, Ecclesiastes 4:12
- Stewardship: Proverbs 3:9, 1 Timothy 6:10

Handling Difficult Cases:

- Purity Struggles: Guide couples to repentance and grace in Christ.
- Financial Conflict: Encourage transparency and unity in budgeting.
- Family Interference: Remind couples of the command to leave and cleave.
- Unforgiveness: Stress the non-negotiable call to forgive as Christ forgave us.
- Prayerlessness: Challenge couples to build a daily rhythm of thanksgiving and prayer.

Encouragement to Facilitators:

Remember, you do not need to be an expert to lead this study. Your role is to faithfully point couples to Christ and His Word. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). Thank you for serving as a vessel to build marriages that glorify God.