

# Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage Bible Study



by Rev. William Batson, MA  
Founder/President – Family Builders Ministries



Rev. William Batson, MA – Founder/President  
PO Box 274 – Cape Neddick, ME 03902-0274 – Phone: (207) 361-1030  
Email: [info@familybuilders.net](mailto:info@familybuilders.net) Web site: [www.familybuilders.net](http://www.familybuilders.net)

*Building Healthy Marriages & Families...from Generation to Generation*

©1998 by Rev. William Batson  
Permission is granted to seminar participants to  
reproduce this material for their personal use  
and for leading a small group study.  
All others should contact Family Builders Ministries.

# **Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage Bible Study**

## **INTRODUCTION**

I realize that it is easy to stumble back into old habits and practices as the routine of life encompasses us. New skills learned in a seminar need to be practiced over a period of time before they become a regular part of our lives. Therefore, I have prepared this material for those who have attended one of our marriage seminars.

This Bible study will help married couples review some of the major relational issues dealt with in the marriage seminar. I encourage you to use it in two ways. First, as a couple you can work through the study over a period of four weeks. Pick a day of the week when you will set aside about 60 minutes for discussing the Bible study and how it relates to your marriage. You may want to plan it around a night out or a morning or evening at home. Feel free to expand your discussion beyond the particular questions and Bible verses. It is my hope that this Bible study will stimulate your thinking in building a stronger marriage.

Secondly, you can use the Bible study with other couples who attended the seminar (or did not attend the seminar). Studying with others is a very enriching and rewarding experience. You get to share in the wealth of insight a small group provides. This group may meet weekly, every other week, or monthly to discuss the studies. Here is a suggested format:

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Sharing Question** – Some suggested questions are listed below:
  - ⇒ How many years have you been married and how did you meet?
  - ⇒ What other married couple influenced you the most in the first five years of your marriage?
  - ⇒ If you could choose another vocation, what would it be and why would it be attractive to you?
  - ⇒ Tell about a gift your spouse gave you. Why was it special?
- **Bible Study** – Allow at least 50 minutes for this part. When discussion and interest are high, you may take more than one session for each lesson.
- **Prayer Time** – Ask each person to share a prayer request that relates to them. It is better in this study to focus on the needs present in the room than on people outside the group. Encourage group members to write down these requests and pray for them until the next meeting. At each meeting, before giving new prayer requests, ask participants to share any answers to their previous requests. Conduct the prayer time according to what your group prefers. This may include going around the circle, choosing one person to pray a general closing prayer, or divide into smaller groups for the prayer time.

A successful small group Bible study must have some general guidelines. Here are few that I have found helpful:

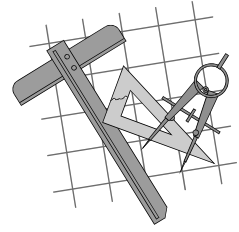
- Set a definite beginning and ending time. Adhere to that schedule for the sake of those who have baby sitters and other commitments.
- Limit the size of the group to 12 people. This will enhance everyone's ability to participate.
- Encourage group members to attend each of the sessions unless prevented by sickness or some other unpreventable event. It is their responsibility to call the group leaders if they are unable to come.
- Refreshments may be served at the beginning or end of the study. You may decide not to have any refreshments other than a beverage. Do not let refreshments become a big issue.
- Encourage members to share nothing about their marriages that will embarrass their mates.
- Group members may "pass" on any question they do not want to answer.
- To protect the integrity of the group, do not discuss with other people what group members share in the Bible study unless you have their permission.
- Any issues of concern that may create relational conflicts within the group should be brought to the attention of the group leaders before they are discussed in the group.
- This Bible study is designed to be a group effort in discovering what the Bible teaches about these marital issues. Therefore, it is not necessary to have a lecture on the topics. The group leader(s) should encourage everyone to participate in seeking biblical truth and sharing what they discover. When questions are raised, the group leader(s) should not feel they have to have all the answers. Ask others in the group what they think.
- It is not necessary to agree with everyone and some ideas may have to be challenged if they are not well-grounded in the Bible. When doctrinal issues arise, you may want to speak with your pastor for any clarifications.

I hope you will find this Bible study a blessing to your marriage. Because this is a work in progress (just like our marriages!), I would appreciate any feedback you may have about the study. Please write me at the following address:

Rev. William Batson  
Family Builders Ministries  
PO Box 274  
Cape Neddick, ME 03902-0274  
Email: [wbatson@familybuilders.net](mailto:wbatson@familybuilders.net)

# **Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage**

## **Bible Study #1: “The Foundation Of Oneness”**



### **□ Two Become One**

1. What purposes for your marriage are suggested in Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:18-25?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Using the concepts from Matthew 19:5-6 and Ephesians 5:31-32, discuss what you think “two shall become one” means.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why is adultery a violation of the “two shall become one” concept? Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.

### **□ Let’s Walk Together - Read Ephesians 4:1-3**

1. What are the key thoughts in these verses as they relate to marital oneness?

2. Explain what you understand the following terms to mean:

“humble” \_\_\_\_\_ “gentle” \_\_\_\_\_

“patient” \_\_\_\_\_ “bearing with one another” \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do the following verses communicate about oneness in marriage?

Proverbs 20:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 24:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 12:17 \_\_\_\_\_

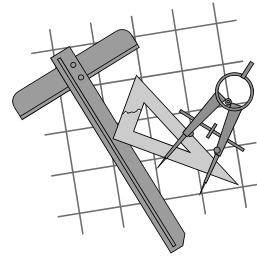
1 Peter 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the practical implications of Colossians 3:12-14 on the marriage relationship?

5. If you and your spouse followed the counsel of the Bible passages you have studied, what would be the practical results in your daily lives? How would your relationship be different?

# Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage

## Bible Study #2: “Honor One Another”



### Foundations of Honor

1. What would be some reasons why couples would not honor one another?
2. How would you define honor? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are some things that lead to honor?
  - Proverbs 15:33 \_\_\_\_\_ ● Proverbs 21:21 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Proverbs 20:3 \_\_\_\_\_ ● Proverbs 22:4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you think you should honor others only when you see some of the things listed above? Explain your answer.

### Becoming the Host, Not the Guest, in Your Marriage

1. Explain the difference between the concepts of being a “host” and being a “guest.”
2. How do Jesus’ words in Mark 10:43-45 help us understand the concept of becoming a host in our marriages?
3. What does 1 Peter 3:7 teach about husbands honoring their wives? Give practical examples of how this would apply to your marriage.

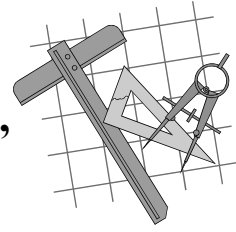
4. What are some realistic things wives can do to honor their husbands according to Titus 2:4,5?

☐ **Couple Reflection** - Complete the following assignment alone. Then, meet with your mate to discuss your individual work.

1. List three things your spouse does that honor you. Be specific. You can include little things or big things.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List three things you would like your spouse to do more often. Be positive and specific.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. When you are in need of support, what do you like your spouse to do?

# Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage

## Bible Study #3: "Improving Our Communication"



### Communicating Well

1. Read 1 Corinthians 14:7-11. What principle or guideline can we learn from this passage about communication in marriage?
2. What are some results in your marriage when you do not speak clearly and misunderstand each other?
3. How do you avoid misunderstandings?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-13.
  - What is Paul requesting of the Corinthians?
  - What may hinder someone from opening their heart and sharing freely with their spouse?
5. In the following verses identify the wrong communication and what should replace it:

	<u>Wrong Communication</u>	<u>Replaced with....</u>
• Ephesians 4:25	_____	_____
• Ephesians 4:29	_____	_____
• Ephesians 5:4	_____	_____

5. What are some of the results of communicating wisely in marriage?

- Proverbs 12:18 \_\_\_\_\_ Proverbs 15:2,7 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 25:11 \_\_\_\_\_ Proverbs 25:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 25:25 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Listening Well**

1. Why do you think listening is an important part of communication?

2. How do the following proverbs help us listen well in marriage?

- Proverbs 17:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 18:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 21:13 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What have you and your spouse done to improve your listening skills?

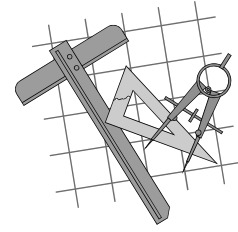
### **Project**

Each day this week make time to share the following with your spouse:

1. List three things that happened in your life today. Anything you did is fine.
2. How did you *feel* about each of the three items you listed? You may use words such as *fantastic, thankful, sad, mildly sad, happy, super happy, frustrated, angry, fearful*, etc.
3. Listen carefully to each other. Ask any questions or make any response you desire.

# Blueprint For A Lasting Marriage

## Bible Study #4: “Forgiving One Another”



### Introduction

1. What would you say to an engaged couple who claimed to never fight and who were confident this pattern would continue for their whole marriage?
2. None of us is perfect. We have all done things that are wrong. We have said things we wish we could retract. That is why forgiving is an essential foundation stone for building a lasting marriage.

### Understanding Forgiveness

1. How would you define forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What do each of the following verses tell you about God’s forgiveness?
  - Psalm 32:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Psalm 103:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Isaiah 38:17 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Micah 7:19 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Isaiah 43:25 and Hebrews 10:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is there a difference between forgiving and forgetting? Explain your answer.

4. How would you answer the person who says: “I have forgiven him/her, but I have trouble with my feelings when I remember what he/she did?”

**□ Forgiving Your Spouse**

1. Read Ephesians 4:32. How are you to forgive your spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the biblical pattern you are to follow when there is an offense in your marriage?

- Matthew 5:23-24      My responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

My spouse’s responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

- Matthew 18:15      My responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

My spouse’s responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the implications of the following verses in your marriage?

- Matthew 18:21-22 \_\_\_\_\_

- Matthew 6:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

- Luke 17:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What would you think of a person whose actions are described in Luke 17:4?

## □ **Project**

1. Read Psalm 139:23-24 and ask God to show you where you are failing your spouse. What are you failing to do that you should be doing? What are you doing that should not be done? Where are you failing to meet his or her needs? What have you said that is unkind? What have you left unsaid that could have brought encouragement? Write what God brings to mind on a separate sheet of paper.
2. Go back over your list and confess each failure to God. After confession, thank God for his forgiveness (remember 1 John 1:9).
3. Plan a time to meet with your spouse and ask his/her permission to share your list. You might begin with the following: "These are some areas in which I feel I have failed you. I want to share them and ask you to forgive me." Read your list and wait for your spouse's response. Hopefully, he/she will express forgiveness. Destroy your list as a reminder that forgiveness has been granted.
4. You may want to seal your confession and forgiveness by some act of love: hold hands, embrace, kiss, or look into the eyes of your spouse and say: "I love you."

# **My Action List for A Stronger Marriage**

Use this tool for planning your strategy in building a lasting marriage. Throughout the study develop a long list of what you want to do (not what you want your spouse to do) to make your marital relationship stronger. At the end of the Bible study, pray over your long list and narrow it down to a shorter list of two or three items. Then select one item to place in the last box that you will work on for the next three months. When you have that completed, select another from your short list.

The diagram consists of three rectangular boxes arranged in a descending staircase pattern from top-left to bottom-right. The top box is the largest and contains the text "My Long List.....". The middle box is smaller and contains the text "My Short List.....". The bottom box is the smallest and contains the text "Will do in next three months.....". All three boxes are contained within a larger, thick-bordered rectangular frame.

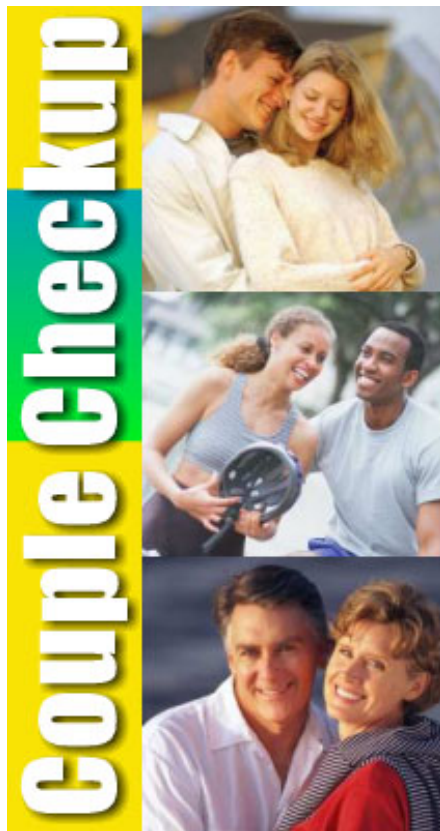


## 30 Healthy Marriage-Building Tips

At Family Builders Ministries we are keenly aware of the challenges couples face in keeping their relationship strong and healthy. Rev. William Batson, Founder/ President of Family Builders Ministries, often tells the story of Lance Armstrong, seven-time winner of the Tour de France, who wrote about his failed marriage: “We forgot to do the most important thing. We forgot to be married.”

To help married couples focus on their marriages, Family Builders Ministries is offering a 30-day e-coaching course on building a healthy marriage. It's very simple. We want to send you 30 easy but powerful marriage-building tips. Each day, for 30 days, you will receive by email an idea that you can put into practice that day.

It's simple and it's free! All you have to do is sign up at our website ([www.familybuilders.net](http://www.familybuilders.net)). Don't delay. Sign up and be ready to see your marriage flourish with God's help. After you sign up, tell your friends about this wonderful opportunity.



## “Couple Checkup” Can Bring New Light To Your Marriage

The *Family Builders' Couple Checkup* is an easy and enjoyable way for engaged and married couples to learn about each other and bring more intimacy into their relationship. By assessing 20 key relationship areas, it helps couples identify their relationship strengths and discuss areas that need more growth.

The confidential Couple Checkup is available online at the Family Builders web site ([www.familybuilders.net](http://www.familybuilders.net)). After completing the checkup, couples download a confidential report which will give feedback about how they each view their relationship. A 24-page discussion guide is also provided. Powered by PREPARE-ENRICH, these assessments have been trusted by over two-million couples & 60,000 counselors worldwide.

The cost is \$29.95 per couple, but the results are priceless. Many pastors and marriage mentors have found the Couple Checkup useful in working with engaged and married couples.

## SUGGESTED READING FOR FURTHER MARRIAGE GROWTH

- *A Lasting Promise* – Scott Stanley, Daniel Trathen, Savanna McCain, & Milt Bryan (Jossey-Bass Publishers)
- *Divorce-Proof Your Marriage* – Gary & Barbara Rosberg (Tyndale House Publishers)
- *Loving Solutions* – Gary D. Chapman (Northfield Publishing)
- *Love and Respect* – Emerson Eggerichs (Integrity Publishers)
- *Sacred Marriage* – Gary Thomas (Zondervan)
- *Sheet Music* – Kevin Leman (Tyndale House Publishers)
- *Ten Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage* – David & Claudia Arp (Zondervan Publishing House)
- *The Five Love Languages* – Gary D. Chapman (Northfield Publishing)
- *The Second Half of Marriage* – David & Claudia Arp (Zondervan Publishing House)
- *When Bad Things Happen to Good Marriages* – Parrott & Parrott (Zondervan Publishing House)

Visit our website store to order these books and others.  
(In association with Christian Book Distributors and Amazon.com)

**[www.familybuilders.net](http://www.familybuilders.net)**

(A portion of all sales is donated to Family Builders Ministries.)

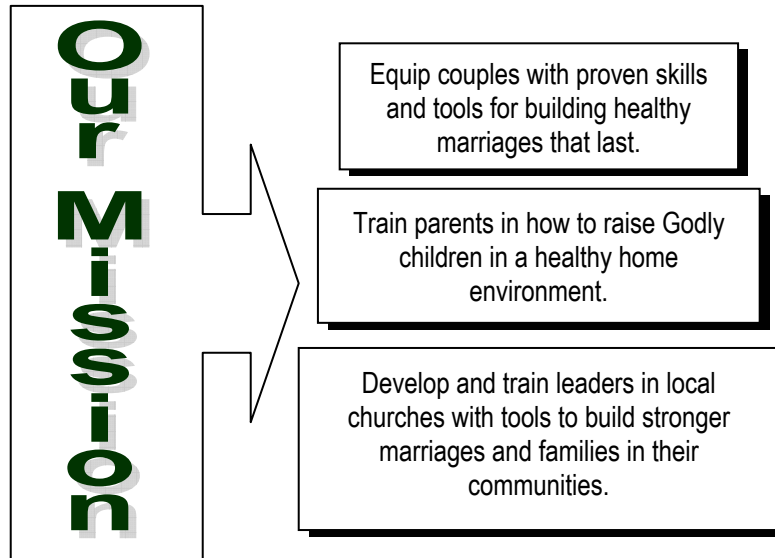
## NOTES

---

**Family Builders Ministries** was founded in 1987 with a vision to see great marriages and families as evidenced in healthy, loving, caring, and lasting relationships from generation to generation.



WILLIE & CINDY BATSON



**Family Builders Ministries** is a donor supported ministry. We invite you to consider joining us as a supporting partner in this mission to build healthy marriages and families from generation to generation. Please contact us for more information.



Rev. William Batson, MA – Founder/President  
PO Box 274 – Cape Neddick, ME 03902-0274 – Phone: (207) 361-1030  
Email: [wbatson@familybuilders.net](mailto:wbatson@familybuilders.net) Web site: [www.familybuilders.net](http://www.familybuilders.net)

***Building Great Marriages & Families...from Generation to Generation***