

True Love

Interactive Bible Study

What the Bible says about
relationships and marriage

Dr. Chris Richards & Dr. Liz Jones



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Registered Office:

140 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 7RT

www.epbooks.org

admin@epbooks.org

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The two authors are trustees of the charity Lovewise, set up in 2002 to promote Christian teaching about marriage and relationships in schools and church youth groups.

www.lovwise.org.uk



Dr. Chris Richards is a Consultant Paediatrician in Newcastle upon Tyne. He is married and has seven children. He is an elder at All Saints Presbyterian Church, Newcastle upon Tyne.



Dr. Liz Jones is a retired Community Paediatrician. She is married with three married daughters and nine grandchildren. With her husband, she attends Welbeck Road Evangelical Church, Newcastle upon Tyne.

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INTRODUCTION

It is notable that the Bible begins with a wedding (**Genesis 2:24**), ends with a wedding (**Revelation 19:9**) and Jesus starts his ministry at a wedding (**John 2:1-11**). This fact reminds us how important marriage and right sexual relationships are to the Lord.

These studies aim to look carefully at what the Bible says about marriage and sexual relationships. You will be asked to read many different verses from the Bible and think what they mean. There will be lots of opportunity for discussion. There is space for you to write down your answers if you would like to.

Marriage is often poorly understood, and sexual temptations are everywhere. We hope that this series of studies will help you to understand God's will in this area and so be able to please Him and reflect His image to others.

USING THIS STUDY GUIDE



Read. Look up verses in the Bible.



Discussions. Your study leader will help.



Watch the videos. Browse to the URL shown or scan the QR code-block shown. Videos will play in all modern browsers.



Facts and Statistics. These will inform your discussions.



Further study. Optional further reading.



Further discussion. Optional discussions on related topics.

1. SINGLENES AND MARRIAGE



4-6 mins.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-9. What do these verses teach us about singleness and marriage (v7)?

What does the Bible assume about singleness (v9)?



8-12 mins.

Is this different from how young people understand singleness in our society?



Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. We all start off single; some remain single for a while, whereas some people remain single for life. What does the Bible say is good about singleness?

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Can you think of people who have done jobs or been in situations where being single has enabled them to serve God in a particular way?



SEE FURTHER STUDY (*page 45*).



2-4 mins.

Read Genesis 2:18, Genesis 1:27-28, Ephesians 5:31-32.

Why did God create marriage?



2-4 mins.

Read Genesis 2:24. What three aspects of marriage are mentioned in this verse? Note the order.



Marriage is a legal commitment based on promises (vows) made in public, usually in front of family and friends at the wedding ceremony.



2-4 mins.

Read Malachi 2:14-16. How does God view the promises (covenant) of marriage?



6-9 mins.

VIDEO: THE MARRIAGE VOWS.

<http://lovewise.org.uk/true-love-videos/marriage-vows>



Listen carefully to the promises this couple make to each other when they get married.

What did the couple getting married promise to each other?

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5-8 mins.

Cohabitation (living together) means a couple sharing a home and being sexually intimate when they are not married. How is cohabitation different from marriage?



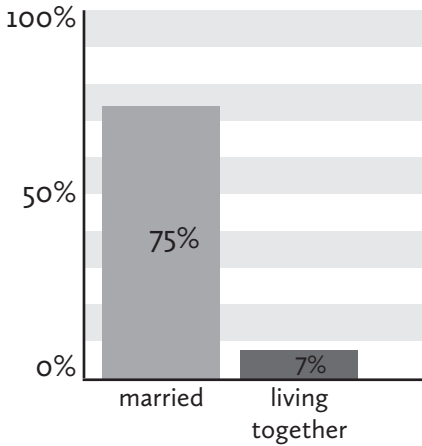
2-4 mins.

Read Exodus 20:14. How does this commandment relate to marriage?



2-4 mins.

What does this graph show about marriage and cohabitation?



Parents still together when their child reaches 16

From Pronzato C., British Household Panel Survey Consolidated Marital, Cohabitation and Fertility Histories, 1991-2006. 2nd Edition. University of Essex. Institute for Social and Economic Research.

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2-4 mins.

Some people say that marriage is “only a piece of paper”. Why is marriage more than a piece of paper?

“*It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but.... the marriage that sustains the love*”.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer | German theologian in the
Second World War**