



MARRIAGE --

What If?

The Marriage Your Heart Longs For. ♥

GROWING TOGETHER. ♥ LOVING DEEPER. ♥ LIVING CONNECTED.

— *Not just good, but truly life-giving.* —

Marriage — What If? The Marriage Your Heart Longs For

What if your marriage could become more than simply surviving the demands of life? What if it could become emotionally safe, spiritually alive, and truly life-giving? In this Men's RoundTable series, we will explore God's design for intimacy, healing, delight, and connection through *The Deep-Rooted Marriage* by Dan Allender and Steve Call alongside *Fire and Song* by Carl W. Lehnbauer. This is an invitation for men to move beyond merely "getting along" toward cultivating a marriage that becomes truly life-giving.



GOD – MARRIAGE – GROWTH



1. **A BEAUTIFULL LOVE STORY** → The Bible was never intended to be a marriage book, but it is a beautiful love story—a story of God in pursuit of His bride. We are the bride of Christ. God created us to have a relationship with Him and with others.
2. **A DIVINE GAZE** → I am convinced that it is God’s intention that we each experience a divine gaze when we look into our partner’s eyes. Jesus encouraged us to move out of the house of fear and to make our home in Him (John 15:4 & Psalm 27:4).
3. **LIVE IN LOVE** → Song of Solomon is a convincing witness that men and women were created physically, emotionally, and spiritually to live in love. The Song is a prism of the intimacy of marital love between man and woman, God’s deep love for His people, Christ’s Bridegroom love for His church, and the Christian’s love for his Lord.

Getting Clear-Eyed About Who You Are

Creation Mandate: Genesis 1:26-28

1. **DREAMING ABOUT WHAT COULD BE** → Engage your imagination and dare to ASK: What do I dream for my partner and me? How would I love to see our story unfold in the years to come? How might we step into transformation, freedom, and vibrancy?
2. **REMEMBERING WHY WE SAID “I DO!”** → Until we understand why we married each other, it is nearly impossible to move forward.
3. **WHAT’S REALLY GOING ON** → Most couples struggle in one or more of the following ways: a lack of delight, loneliness, contempt, and feeling stuck.
4. **UNDERSTANDING WHAT SHAPED YOU** → Any violation of human dignity that comes through emotional, physical, sexual, or spiritual harm.
5. **THE DANCE WE KEEP REPEATING** → We need to discover the familiar song and dance that has protected us and prevented us from deeper intimacy: the war against need. It has been the leading cause of disconnection in our marriage.



Song of Songs 6:3

1. **Poetry** → Translated from ancient Hebrew, the Song offers images meant to awaken our imagination like an impressionistic painting that conveys emotion and wonder. Their ambiguity is intended to draw us into contemplation. The question to ask is not , “What would this look like?” but rather, “What emotions do these images stir?” We are to consider the wonder of love!
2. **Song** → The Book is not a story, but a song that points to the center (3:6 – 5:1) as the couple’s wedding. The passionate romance is built on the foundation of godly marriage.
3. **Central Scene** → The structure makes the central scene, the wedding day and night, the focal point of the Book. God-centered marriage is the foundation on which this strong and beautiful love is built.



ACTION: Journal This!

1. **KNOWING YOUR STORY**
What fear most often shows up in your marriage (relationships)?
2. **KNOWING HER STORY**
What wound does your wife carry that deserves greater compassion from you?
3. **IMAGINATION**
What if your greatest marital conflict is actually an invitation to deeper understanding?



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