



## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

February 20th

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### Sermon Discussion Guide: **Week 2 - Covenant or Contract?** Series- "Marriage By Design"

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#### Recap the Highlights:

- As a Christ follower, everything you and I need to heal, restore and reconcile our marriage is found in the Covenant of Marriage!
- God's design for marriage is a spiritual covenant not just a physical arrangement or contract.
  - Make Christ the Center.
  - Make Room for Offense.
  - Become the Righteousness of God.
- The New Covenant makes room for Blessing, Protection, Promise, and Reconciliation.

#### Now Dig Deeper:

1. Discuss how expectations linked to happiness can cause conflict and unhealthy comparison?
2. Look up the scripture references below. Discuss how they offer us the blueprint to overcome irreconcilable differences and be ambassadors for the ministry of reconciliation.

#### **Main Text: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

Ephesians 5:31-32; Colossians 3:13; Isaiah 49:8-10

#### Respond:

1. Biblical Marriage calls for sacrifice, service, honor, and commitment. What are some practical ways you can encourage these responses?



## Covenant or Contract?

### Faith in Action:

- If you are in what feels like an irreconcilable relationship, Pray over their hurt or insecurities. Pray for revelation of your own faults. Make **allowances** for unmet expectations and **remember** God has a greater plan for reconciliation. **See Isaiah 55:8-9 and 1 Corinthians 13.**
- Do your part to honor the spiritual covenant of marriage through these steps:
  - **Start now!**
  - **Start with you!**
  - **Start small... and be consistent!**

### Prayer:

“Dear heavenly Father, we are so grateful You are much more than our Savior. Help us look to You to heal our hurts and those of our loved ones. Guide our spirits to release any resentment and bitterness that remains in our hearts and surrender it to you. Jesus, help us to seek out your design for our marriage and encourage others to find freedom through a Christ centered marriage. Amen.”