

Session 5

EXPECTATIONS

Getting Ready

Here's what you'll talk about:

- where expectations come from and the need to discuss them
- being realistic
- changing yourself instead of your spouse

Survey Says...

Take a quick look at the Marriage Expectations section of your Couple Checkup report. Notice whether this is a “strength” or “growth” area in your relationship.

Selfie

Taking a Snapshot of Where You Are Right Now

In three minutes or less, please complete the following survey. Give “off the top of your head” responses as much as possible. You’re not trying to come up with “right” answers, but simply to start thinking about where you stand on some of the issues addressed in

this session. You and your spouse-to-be should fill in your answers separately so that you can compare and discuss them later.

1. Which of the following family traditions from your childhood would you like to continue? Which would you like to bury forever? Circle “pass on” or “pass up” to indicate your answers.

- the way your parents divided up the housework

PASS ON **PASS UP**

- the way you celebrated Christmas

PASS ON **PASS UP**

- the way you celebrated birthdays

PASS ON **PASS UP**

- the way your parents felt about alcohol

PASS ON **PASS UP**

- what you were allowed to watch on TV or what movies you were allowed to see

PASS ON **PASS UP**

2. Which famous couple do you expect your future marriage to closely resemble?

- Adam and Eve
- Mary and Joseph
- Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie
- Prince William and Princess Kate
- Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King
- Romeo and Juliet

- Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark
- Bonnie and Clyde
- Snow White and the Huntsman

3. If, 100 years from now, someone were to write the story of your married life, which of the following would you expect to be the final sentence? Why?

- “And they lived happily ever after.”
- “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.”
- “Don’t try this at home.”
- other _____

4. When it comes to marriage, which of the following is closest to your philosophy?

- “Hope for the best and prepare for the worst.”
- “Lower your expectations.”
- “They’ll change, I know they will.”
- “We’re perfect for each other.”
- “All we need is love.”
- other _____

5. If you were to write down all your expectations about marriage, how long would the list be? If you only included a “job description” for your spouse, how long would *that* be? Would it be a good idea? Why or why not?

WeTube

Getting the Most from the Video

After watching the Session 5 video on the DVD, discuss the following questions:

1. What were some expectations about marriage that people mentioned in this video? Where did they seem to come from? How realistic did they sound?
2. Why do we have expectations about marriage? Why not just walk into it saying, "*Qué será, será*" (whatever will be, will be)?
3. What expectations did you have about the following? Were they met? If not, how did you deal with that?
 - the way in which one of you would propose marriage to the other
 - the way your parents would react to your engagement
 - how you would feel as the "big day" approaches
 - how much your wedding would cost, and who is paying for what part of the wedding
4. Here are some lines about relationships from popular songs. What kinds of expectations do they encourage? How could expectations like those affect your marriage?
 - "And I will always love you . . ."

- “So if by the time the bar closes and you feel like falling down/I’ll carry you home tonight.”
 - “Go on now go, walk out the door/Just turn around now (’cause) you’re not welcome anymore . . .”
 - “Where have the times gone, Baby? It’s all wrong/Where are the plans we made for two?”
 - “Almost paradise/We’re knockin’ on heaven’s door . . .”
 - “So unaware, I foolishly believed/That you would always be there . . .”
 - “Ain’t no mountain high enough/To keep me from you . . .”
 - “I ain’t missing you at all/Since you’ve been gone away . . .”
 - “All I wanna do/Is grow old with you . . .”
5. Talk about the following common issues and how you think they will affect your marriage. What are your expectations concerning these issues?
- working outside the home
 - having children
 - how you spend free time
 - relating to the opposite sex (at work, online, through social media, etc.)
 - where you spend holidays
 - where/how often you attend church
 - renting vs. owning your own place
 - in-laws

- handling disagreements and conflict
 - making decisions
 - spending time with friends
 - having alone time
 - visiting extended family
 - drinking alcohol
 - celebrating holidays and special occasions
 - pets
6. Look at Philippians 4:6–7. Have you ever told God what you expect when it comes to marriage? Why or why not?
7. Which of the following keep you from telling your future spouse about all your expectations?
- You're afraid of scaring him/her away.
 - You have too many of them.
 - Some of them are embarrassing.
 - You'd sound too selfish.
 - You assume you're marrying a mind reader.
 - other _____
8. Pick one expectation from question #5 that you harbor but haven't shared with your future mate. How would you go about telling him or her about it—graciously, with a humble heart, assertively asking for what you want?

9. Think about a time when things didn't turn out the way you expected. Was it a bad thing? Could it ever be a good thing? If some of your marriage expectations are negative, is it possible that you could be pleasantly surprised?
10. What expectations do you think God might have for your marriage? How do you feel about that?

App(lication)

Taking Things Personally

Here's a way for the two of you to talk further about your expectations.



These are pictures of “typical” couples doing “typical” things. But you’re not “typical,” right? You’re you. Imagine that these are supposed to represent the two of you 20 years from now. Do you think they show how old you’ll look, what you’ll be doing, where you’ll live, and who’ll perform which tasks? Do they reflect what you expect? If not, what would more accurate pictures look like? Based on what you’ve seen in this session, what should you do if your expectations differ from those of your future spouse?

Face The Book

Going Deeper with Ready to Wed

To learn more about—and apply—the principles you’ve just discussed, please read the following in the *Ready to Wed* book during the week:

Chapter 9, “What Do You Expect?” by Bill and Pam Farrel