

STUDY GUIDE | 33 LESSONS

DRIVE BY

MARRIAGE

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Drive By Marriage: Individual, Couple, or Group Discussion Guide

This discussion guide is a companion to the 33-part Drive By Marriage audio series available at www.Wretched.org

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MESSAGE FROM TODD



Way to go!

You are doing something very unusual, and you should be applauded!

Many people have good marriages they just don't think can improve. Congratulations for investing time to make your good marriage even better.

Others struggle in their marriages and either resolve to plug their noses and live with it, or just get divorced. If you are struggling, congratulations for your willingness to put in the effort to help your marriage not just survive, but thrive.

No matter how good or bad your marriage is, it can be better . . . much better. "Drive by Marriage" will take you on a deep, profound, and soul-searching journey that will produce an intimacy between you and your spouse that you never imagined could happen.

Once again, WAY TO GO! Now prepare for an amazing journey!

STUDY GUIDE & INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the discussion guide for Drive By Marriage. This guide has been created to help you get the most out of the Drive By Marriage audio lectures. The guide contains two components that accompany each lecture.

LECTURE QUESTIONS

The Lecture Questions reinforce the lessons in each lecture. Within the questions, you will find Scripture passages mentioned in the lecture and many of the ideas presented in written form. The questions are intended to promote transparency within the group or between spouses in order to foster an environment in which wisdom can be shared and true Gospel-centered hope can be discussed. Use the Scripture passages mentioned in the questions to get the Bible open and the words of God injected into the discussion. Check every idea against Scripture.

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

Using Scripture passages and other key ideas from the lectures, these questions will ask you to examine your hearts and actions. As with any study, the amount of time, effort, and honesty you put into the individual questions will determine the growth seen by the individual. In many cases, you will be sitting down with your spouse and family members and asking them to give you honest feedback about your actions and attitudes. The Christian life is meant to be lived in community and fellowship, and these questions are intended to promote that in a unique way for each individual.

FINAL THOUGHT...

Remember that change is a process, not an event, and that every Christian grows at different rates. The truths drawn out in these lectures are founded in the Gospel and the person of Jesus Christ. It is God's will that every believer be conformed more and more into the image of Christ (Romans 8:28–34). As you interact in Gospel-centered fellowship, you will have opportunities to encourage others and to be encouraged yourself.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE - SMALL GROUP PLAN

START (15 Minutes)

Week 1 ⇒ Having familiarized yourself with the guide and the structure of this study, read the welcome letter and introduction provided for you in this guide to the class.

Following Week 1 ⇒ Start each session with a review of the Personal Questions from the previous lesson. Ask for examples of encouragement or clarification about the questions or Scripture passages. Here are some helpful questions to facilitate these discussions:

- In what areas of your life did these questions challenge you the most?
- Share an example from this past week where you applied some of the lecture ideas. What was the result?
- Did you learn something new about yourself, your spouse, or your children that you previously were unaware of? How does that affect your actions going forward?

LISTEN (15 Minutes)

Listen to the audio lecture.

LECTURE QUESTIONS (15-25 Minutes)

Go through the Lecture Questions together. Use them to help one another think through the issues presented. Read the Scripture passages indicated, and make sure all the ideas discussed are grounded in Scripture, not simply feelings and experiences.

CLOSING (5 Minutes)

Close in prayer, focusing on specific aspects of the lesson to guide the time.

PERSONAL QUESTIONS (HOMEWORK)

To get the most out of this study, we strongly encourage you to study through the Personal Questions. We cannot stress this enough. Here are two options:

Option 1: Work through the Personal Questions on your own. Write down your thoughts, and study through the scripture references provided. Be prepared to engage in conversation at the next meeting. When finished, spend time in prayer.

Option 2: Work through the Personal Questions with your spouse. Answer the questions separately. Then, come together to discuss and compare answers. You will find this to be very rewarding. **CHARGE TO HUSBANDS** ⇒ When finished, lead your wife in prayer. Pray for your marriage, your children, and the Holy Spirit to grow you through this study.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE - INDIVIDUAL PLAN

START

Week 1 ⇒ Familiarize yourself with the guide and the structure of this study. Read the welcome letter and introduction provided for you in this guide.

Following Week 1 ⇒ Start each session with a review of the Personal Questions from the previous lesson. Assess what you have learned and ask yourself these helpful questions:

- In what areas of your life did these questions challenge me the most?
- Did I miss any opportunities this past week to apply what I've learned? What could I have done differently?
- Have I fully grasped the material from last week's lessons?

Remember not to rush. Let the ideas work in your heart before moving on to the next lecture.

LISTEN

Listen to the audio lecture.

LECTURE QUESTIONS

Go through the Lecture Questions together. Use them to help guide you through the issues presented. Also, read the Scripture passages indicated, and make sure all your thoughts and ideas are grounded in Scripture, not simply feelings and experiences.

CLOSING

Close in prayer, focusing on specific aspects of the lesson to guide the time.

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

To get the most out of this study, we strongly encourage you to study through the Personal Questions. We cannot stress this enough. You can work through the Personal Questions immediately following the Lecture Questions, or you can work on them throughout the next week. Regardless of what you decide, make sure to **DO THEM!** Write down your thoughts, and study through the Scripture provided. When finished, spend time in prayer.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE - COUPLES PLAN

START

Week 1 ⇒ Familiarize yourself with the guide and the structure of this study. Read the welcome letter and introduction provided for you in this guide.

Following Week 1 ⇒ Start each session with a review of the Personal Questions from the previous lesson. Assess what you have learned, and ask yourself these helpful questions:

- In what areas of your life did these questions challenge us the most?
- Did either of us observe changes in the others' behavior? Give an example.
- Have I fully grasped the material from last week's lessons, or is there something that needs to be revisited?

Remember not to rush. Let the ideas work in your heart before moving on to the next lecture.

LISTEN

Listen to the audio lecture.

LECTURE QUESTIONS

Husbands, use the Lecture Questions to help guide you and your spouse through the issues presented. Also, read the Scripture passages indicated, and make sure both your thoughts and ideas are grounded in Scripture, not simply feelings and experiences.

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

To get the most out of this study, we strongly encourage you to study through the Personal Questions. We cannot stress this enough. Answer the questions separately. Then, come together to discuss and compare answers. You will find this to be very rewarding.

CHARGE TO HUSBANDS

Close your time together by leading your wife in prayer. Pray for your marriage, your children, and the Holy Spirit to grow you through this study.

LAYING

THE FOUNDATION

CHAPTER 1



LECTURE 1

LECTURE QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to understand the bad news of sin before you can understand the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
2. Read Acts 20:21–24. The Apostle Paul is describing the good news he was preaching as he traveled. What two things was Paul testifying about, and who was the message from?
3. What is the typical attitude toward sin in Western culture?
4. In what way are the Gospel and a regenerated heart necessary for transformation to take place in relationships?
5. In 1 Timothy 1:15, the Apostle Paul calls himself the chief of sinners. Do you think he deserved this title? Who might be a better candidate for that title today?
6. Read Matthew 7:3–5. How do the sins you have committed against God compare to the insults or slights you might receive from those around you (spouse, kids, coworkers, neighbors, etc.) on a typical day?
7. How might your pride cause you to think that you deserve to be treated better by those around you? Was this Christ's attitude while on the earth? (Philippians 2:1–11)

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. The Gospel is a very personal topic. It is meant for individuals to respond in an individual way. How have you responded to the sacrificial death of Jesus to pay the penalty of the sins you have committed against God?
2. If you have rejected the truths of the gospel, who could you speak to in order to better understand why every person is in need of Jesus Christ as their Savior?
3. If you have received Christ's gift of salvation, what evidence of the transforming power of the Gospel do you see in your life?
4. When anyone repents to God and places their faith in Jesus, they receive the presence of the Holy Spirit and their sinful heart is renewed. If you have not been born again, why will these lectures be useless to you? Read 1 Corinthians 2:12–16 to better understand this idea.
5. 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 speaks of different types of people. Which type of person are you—an ambassador seeking to reconcile others to Christ, or one who needs to be reconciled to a holy God whom you have sinned against? Describe an example.

LECTURE 2

LECTURE QUESTIONS

1. Why is the Gospel better than a list or a set of principles when responding to various situations in life?
2. What are we saying to God when we choose to punish our spouse for the sins they commit against us? How does Romans 5:8 apply to this attitude?
3. Read James 4:6–10. Why is it important that we humbly recognize our own sinful condition when we are facing a conflict?
4. When facing a conflict with your spouse, should you respond in a fundamentally different way based on whether or not they have received salvation?
5. If we focus on winning and losing battles, how do we miss the Gospel?
6. Read 1 Peter 2:18–25. How can we truly reflect the character of Christ in a conflict? Is this a simple or natural thing to do?
7. How can it be true that we can serve and love our spouse more when we need them less?

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you find yourself seeking satisfaction in anything other than Christ? Write down five things you tend to look to for comfort or pleasure other than Christ. Pray and ask God for wisdom to understand if any of these things have become an idol in your life.
2. Think of a time when you have intentionally punished your spouse for offending you. Was what they did a sin? How did you punish them? How does that punishment compare to what Christ has already paid for that sin?
3. Stop and consider your true attitude toward the sin in your life. Can you honestly say that you consider yourself to be the chief of sinners? Read Exodus 20:1–21, and examine your life in the mirror of the Ten Commandments.
4. How do you connect who Christ is to what the Gospel means for your life?
5. As you think about your life, is the Gospel a spontaneous reaction to the circumstances around you? How could you make it more so?
6. Read Philippians 2:1–11. Describe how your attitude toward your spouse reflects the character of Jesus in this passage.
7. Think back to the time when you recognized your need for a Savior. Do you see yourself in the same humble state today—in need of His grace?
8. When there is a conflict in your day-to-day relationships, would others recognize your response as one that points to Christ and the Gospel? Give an example, positive or negative.