

## The Plan and Purpose for Marriage

### Reflection

(For those who are married) Why did we decide to get married?

(For those who are not married) Do we want to get married someday? Why or why not?

### Inspiration from the Holy Bible

"For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31)

### Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

And those who say, "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous." (Surah Al-Furqan 25:74)

"And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way." (Surah Al-Isra 17:32)

### Hadith

It was narrated from Aishah (RA) that: the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said; "Marriage is part of my sunnah, and whoever does not follow my sunnah has nothing to do with me. Get married, for I will boast of your great numbers before the nations. Whoever has the means, let him get married, and whoever does not, then he should fast for it will diminish his desire." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

### What is God's plan and purpose for marriage?

- a. Marriage is God's idea, and it happens by God's design. It is a covenant, a sacred agreement. "Sacred" means special and extremely valuable, so marriage should not be taken lightly. A covenant's purpose is to enhance, protect and provide. In the same way that God's covenant with us ensures that we are enhanced by His grace, protected by His presence and provided for by His goodness, marriage is meant to be a source of enhancement (creating the best version of ourselves), protection and provision.

You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. (Malachi 2:14)

- b. Love is not an emotion, it is a decision. It is also something consecrated and offered to God as part of our sacred agreement. When we enter into marriage, we make the decision to love our spouse, even in times when we wonder whether or not he/she deserves it. This is the kind of love that says to the other. "You are special to me for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health.

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

- c. Marriage exists for God's glory. It is supposed to display God's unconditional love and Jesus Christ's sacred agreement with His church, His sacrificial love that redeemed us from sin.

And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

### Challenge

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

### Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: We put our faith in Your power, Lord, confident that You can do the impossible. In You we will find the healing, abundance, prosperity and security that we seek. As we continue to walk with You, may You grant us the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.