

## WEEK SIX: QUESTIONS TO CONNECT OVER

**Scripture Readings:** Ephesians 5:25-27; Philippians 1:3-6

**Message:** Hope: seeing the Great Horizon

“ The purpose of Marriage ....is to begin to see the person God is making your spouse into, and then to do everything you can to help them toward that future image”

### Consider

1. What has been the biggest challenge or encouragement to you during this series?
2. How would you summarize the last 6 weeks of content into one sentence?
3. What would you consider to be a “successful” marriage?

### Dig Deeper

1. Timothy Keller writes, “Within this Christian vision for marriage, here’s what it means to fall in love. It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of the person God is creating, and to say, “I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be a part of that.” Does it excite you to see your spouse flourish? What does this look like in your marriage?
2. Friendship is a necessary part of a healthy marriage; do you know any couples who exemplify friendship to you?
3. According to Galatians 5:22-25, what is the evidence of Jesus’s transforming work? Would you say you have grown in these things in the last year? 2 years? If not, what is standing in the way of you growing to become more like Jesus?
4. The phrase “The great horizon” was used to describe our view of the future person God is making your spouse into. How could this idea of looking toward your spouse’s “great horizon” change the way you look at your spouse today? If you are single but want to be married, how does this change the way you look for a spouse?
5. Read Ephesians 5:25-27. The apostle Paul connects the sanctification effect of the gospel (the “chiseling away” to become more like Jesus) to the mission of marriage. This mission, especially, is to love your spouse in such a way that it makes them more beautiful and holy over time. What are some ways your marriage has changed you for the better? If you are single, what are some ways that very close friends have helped you change for the better?
6. Is there anything that stands in the way of your spouse being your first priority? Why are these “pseudo-spouses” toxic? What can be done about them?
7. What did Pastor Steve say was the key is spiritual friendship ...eagerly helping one another know, serve, love and resemble God in deeper and deeper ways” (p. 132) What are some practical ways we could do this in our everyday lives?
8. What are some things you can be doing with your spouse to keep growing and investing in your marriage moving forward?

## Putting Love into Action

Now is a chance to begin building a hope-filled, Jesus- centered vision into your marriage. Kathy Keller says to think of your spouse as an unfinished piece of stone that still needs chiseling in order to become the final work of art (beautiful as is! But in the process of becoming even more beautiful). The important thing to note for US as spouses, is that chiseling is always constructive, not destructive....

Think about these things and share with your spouse...

1. "I see the love of Jesus on display in your life when you \_\_\_\_\_" (this is where you see the gospel alive and at work in your spouse)
2. "God has clearly gifted you in \_\_\_\_\_" (this is where you see your spouse really flourishing)
3. As believers, we are promised a future glory- freedom from all of our sins and agonies- when we encounter Jesus face to face. What particular kind of unbridled joy, redemption, and freedom do you envision for your spouse?
4. Prayerfully consider what you could do as a spouse to encourage the growth that God is doing in your partner – are there ways you could make space for the areas God's has gifted them,
5. How can you support the spiritual growth of your partner?

Prayerfully reflect on these...

1. What could you do to make space for the growth of your partner (in the areas God has gifted them or *they* want to develop) ?
2. Given everything you have heard, read and discussed over the last 6 weeks, how is God calling YOU to respond? Is there anything God is calling your attention to? Who can keep you accountable as you respond to this? How will you know if you are successful in this effort?