

this momentary marriage study guide

This Momentary Marriage Study Guide

In today's fast-paced world, the concept of marriage often seems to be fleeting. This is where the insightful work of John Piper's book, "This Momentary Marriage," comes into play. The book aims to redefine the notion of marriage from a biblical perspective, emphasizing its temporary nature while highlighting the eternal significance of the union. The study guide accompanying the book serves as a valuable resource for individuals and couples seeking to deepen their understanding of marriage and its purpose. In this article, we will explore the key themes of the book, its structure, and how to effectively use the study guide for personal growth and relationship enrichment.

Understanding the Themes of "This Momentary Marriage"

John Piper delves into several critical themes throughout "This Momentary Marriage." Each theme is designed to provoke thought, encourage dialogue, and inspire couples to view their relationship through a biblical lens.

1. The Purpose of Marriage

Piper argues that the primary purpose of marriage is to glorify God. This perspective shifts the focus from personal fulfillment to a more profound commitment to mutual edification and service.

- Key Points:
- Marriage is not an end in itself but a means to reflect God's glory.
- Couples are called to support one another in their spiritual journeys.
- The relationship should be viewed as a covenant rather than a contract.

2. The Temporary Nature of Marriage

The title of the book itself hints at the transient quality of marriage. Piper emphasizes that while marriage is essential on earth, it is not eternal.

- Key Insights:
- Earthly marriages will cease in the afterlife, as Jesus indicated.
- The focus should be on preparing for eternity rather than merely enjoying the present.

- This perspective can alleviate the pressure of marital perfection.

3. The Reality of Suffering in Marriage

Piper acknowledges that marriage can be challenging and often involves suffering. However, he suggests that this suffering can lead to spiritual growth.

- Considerations:
- Embrace difficulties as opportunities for growth.
- Understand that suffering can draw couples closer to each other and to God.
- Practice forgiveness and grace in the face of challenges.

4. The Role of Submission and Sacrifice

In his exploration of biblical roles within marriage, Piper discusses the concepts of submission and sacrifice.

- Essential Takeaways:
- Submission should be mutual, with both partners prioritizing each other's needs.
- Sacrifice is a crucial element of love, mirroring Christ's sacrifice for the church.
- Understanding and practicing these principles can lead to a more harmonious relationship.

Utilizing the Study Guide

The This Momentary Marriage Study Guide is structured to facilitate discussion, reflection, and practical application of the book's principles. Below are some suggestions on how to effectively use the study guide for personal and couple growth.

1. Weekly Discussions

Allocate time each week to read a chapter from the book and discuss it using the study guide's questions. This practice fosters open communication and helps couples understand one another's perspectives.

- Discussion Points:
- What did you find most challenging or inspiring in this chapter?
- How can we apply these principles in our daily lives?
- Are there areas where we need to seek forgiveness or make changes?

2. Personal Reflection

Encourage individual reflection by using the study guide's prompts to journal thoughts and feelings about marriage.

- Journal Ideas:
- Write about a time when you experienced suffering in your marriage and what you learned from it.
- Reflect on how you view the purpose of your marriage and how it aligns with biblical teachings.
- Consider ways you can serve your spouse better.

3. Group Studies

If you are part of a church or community group, consider using the study guide for a group study. This format allows for shared experiences and diverse insights.

- Group Activities:
- Break into small discussion groups to share personal experiences related to each theme.
- Invite guest speakers, such as pastors or marriage counselors, to provide additional insights.
- Plan activities or service projects that embody the principles discussed.

Practical Applications of the Lessons Learned

Understanding the themes of "This Momentary Marriage" is only the first step. The next is applying these lessons to daily life. Here are practical ways to implement what you learn from the study guide.

1. Regular Date Nights

Investing time in each other is crucial. Schedule regular date nights that allow for meaningful conversation and connection.

- Ideas for Date Nights:
- Attend a local event or concert together.
- Cook a meal together and discuss the week's highs and lows.
- Go for a walk in nature and reflect on your journey as a couple.

2. Serve Together

Find opportunities to serve others as a couple. This not only strengthens your relationship but also embodies the principles of sacrifice and community.

- Ways to Serve:
- Volunteer at a local charity or church.
- Organize community clean-up days.
- Participate in mission trips or outreach programs.

3. Establish a Prayer Routine

Prayer is a powerful tool for any marriage. Establish a routine for praying together to seek God's guidance and strength.

- Prayer Practices:
- Share specific prayer requests and pray for each other's needs.
- Spend time in silent prayer, reflecting on your relationship with God and each other.
- Use scripture to guide your prayers, focusing on the themes of love and commitment.

Conclusion

"This Momentary Marriage" by John Piper offers a transformative perspective on the institution of marriage. By utilizing the study guide, couples can delve deeper into the book's teachings, fostering both individual and collective growth. As you embark on this journey, remember that marriage is not just about the present but is a preparation for eternity. By focusing on glorifying God, embracing the temporary nature of your union, and navigating the challenges together, you can create a robust and fulfilling relationship that honors both your partner and your faith.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary focus of 'This Momentary Marriage' study guide?

The study guide focuses on understanding the biblical principles of marriage as outlined by John Piper, emphasizing the purpose of marriage and how it reflects God's glory.

Who is the author of 'This Momentary Marriage'?

The author of 'This Momentary Marriage' is John Piper, a well-known pastor, theologian, and author.

What are the key themes explored in the study guide?

Key themes include the sanctity of marriage, the roles of husbands and wives, the importance of commitment, and the concept of marriage as a temporary yet significant covenant.

How can 'This Momentary Marriage' study guide be used in a group setting?

The study guide can be used in small groups or church study sessions to facilitate discussions, encourage accountability, and deepen understanding of marriage from a biblical perspective.

Does the study guide include personal reflection questions?

Yes, the study guide includes personal reflection questions designed to help individuals apply the teachings to their own marriages and relationships.

Is 'This Momentary Marriage' suitable for pre-marital counseling?

Yes, the study guide can be beneficial for pre-marital counseling as it lays a strong foundation for understanding the biblical view of marriage.

What resources are included in the study guide?

The study guide typically includes discussion questions, biblical references, practical application tips, and additional reading recommendations.

Can 'This Momentary Marriage' study guide be beneficial for those facing marital challenges?

Absolutely. The study guide addresses common challenges in marriage and provides biblical insights and encouragement for couples experiencing difficulties.

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