



KEYS FOR BUILDING **STRONG FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS**

LESSON 7 // MAKING MARRIAGE WORK—PART 6

Big Idea:

Marriage is a mixture of experiences that produce a multitude of emotions. Because of this, conflict, tension and stress can become the predominant atmosphere in the home. This was never God's design! He wants to bring peace into your marriage. Of course, this begins with peace in yourself with the help of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). When that kind of peace is at work in you, there are important steps you can take to create an atmosphere of peace in your home and relationships.

Romans 12:17, 18 (NLT) *Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.*

Discussion Questions:

- Share some peace “robbers” in your life? (Pressures of daily living, finances, raising children, making decisions, meeting expectations, handling disappointments, etc.)
- Are any of those peace “robbers” related to past pain or triggers of other areas in your life? Which ones?
- Share a time when grace or mercy has been extended to you? (In pride, anger, lying, failures, etc.) How did you feel after?
- God didn’t call us to fix people, He called us to love people. What are some practical ways we can demonstrate love for one another without “fixing”?
- Reflect on areas in your life you would like to become better instead of bitter. Using James 1:2-5 as a guide, pray over those difficulties and ask God for strength and wisdom.

Prayer Focus:

Pray that God would help us pursue peace in our relationships this week. Ask God to help you be teachable and to give you courage as you begin taking practical steps in your relationships (where this is appropriate).

Leader Tip:

Share practical steps that you have taken in pursuing peace in your relationships. Feel free to share the initial challenges you faced as well as the benefits of taking these steps.