

His Needs Her Needs – Notes & Outline
Week 1 – Have a Vision for a Great Marriage

Dr. Willard Harley, His Needs Her Needs “Successful marriages require skill – skill in caring for the one you promised to cherish throughout life. Good intentions are not enough. This book was written to educate you in the care of your spouse. Once you have learned its lessons, your spouse will find you irresistible, a condition that is essential to a happy and successful marriage.”

Truth: God has a vision for my marriage.

Gen. 2:18 “The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Truth: God has a vision for my marriage to be a GREAT (i.e. totally united) marriage.

Gen 2:24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Blessings of Vision:

1. Builds morale; 1Cor 1:10a
2. Reduce frustration; 1Cor 1:10b
3. Brings focus and concentration; Phil 3:13-14
4. Attracts (enlists) cooperation. Ezra 10:4
5. Assists in evaluation; 2Cor 13:5

3 Enemies of every (my) marriage:

1. **SATAN:** Gen 3:1-6; Marriage is God’s idea and institution and it was made ‘very good.’ Thus Satan seeks to destroy your marriage primarily by lying to us and tempting us not to trust and believe God’s Word for our marriage.
2. **SINFULNESS:** Galatians 5:17 (selfishness) To be deceived and fall into overt sin (Gen 3:6-12) and not take full responsibility for our actions.
3. **SLOTHFULNESS:** Heb. 6:12; Including a lack of knowledge, lack of application. We must apply ourselves

Can you find the design for marriage in this verse?

“For **God so loved** the world that **he gave** his one and only Son...” (John 3:16)

(Fill in the blanks)

For _____ so loved _____ that he gave his/her best; all that he/she had or could.
(your name) (spouse’s name)

Husband, if you were to give 100%, 100% of the time how much does your wife receive? 100%

Wife, if you were to give 100%, 100% of the time how much does your husband receive? 100%

Matt 22:37-39, “Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

His Needs Her Needs
Week 2 – An Affair Proof Marriage & the Love Bank

Large Group

Icebreaker: How did you first meet your spouse? (Tell both sides of the story!)

(Take a few minutes to review the notes on the back of this page.)

In small groups (4-6 people) discuss:

1. Of your spouse's 5 predominant emotional needs, is there one that caught you by surprise or unaware? Please explain.

2. Dr. Harley describes pleasant emotional experiences with your spouse (pg. 25) like deposits being made into your love bank and painful emotional experiences like withdrawals being made from your love bank.
 - How does this concept help you understand the importance of meeting your spouse's emotional needs?

3. How can you see your responsibility to keep your spouse's love bank filled and avoid making withdraws fit into God's plan for marriage? (See notes on Gen. 2:18 on the back of this page.)

4. Which challenges do you face if you are to make regular deposits into your spouse's love bank? How will you overcome them?
 - The challenge of time:** *Life is so busy, so filled with activities and demands it seems as if we don't have enough time for each other.*
 - The challenge of understanding:** *My spouse's emotional needs are so foreign or different from mine that it is hard for me to grasp how to meet his/her need.*
 - The challenge of effort:** *I often don't recognize or I ignore the daily effort required of me to meet my spouse's emotional needs and make for a great marriage.*
 - The challenge of assumption:** *My spouse should know I love him/her - that's why I married him/her. That love should be able to sustain a healthy, vibrant marriage.*

5. Dr. Harley rates pleasant emotional experiences (deposits) on a 1-4 scale: 1 - You feel comfortable; 2 - You feel good; 3 - You feel very good; 4 - You feel exceptionally good.
 - Which approach would seem to you to be the best one for making deposits: making consistent deposits of 1's or 2's or occasional deposits of 3's or 4's? Why?
 - What are the drawbacks to either approach?

Prayer: Pray for the couple on your left - That they would commit to making regular deposits in their spouse's love bank and avoid making withdraws – leading to greater intimacy and trust in their marriage.

His Needs Her Needs – Class Outline & Notes
Week 2 – An Affair Proof Marriage & the Love Bank

Dr. Willard Harley, His Needs Her Needs “The husband and wife who commit themselves to meet each other’s needs will lay a foundation for lifelong happiness in a marriage that is deeper and more satisfying than they ever dreamed possible.”

Realization: Not as one husband told me “His Needs His Needs” or “Her Needs Her Needs”

- We focus on meeting the needs of our spouse not what we think are their needs
- Don’t meet the needs you value but the needs your spouse values

Meeting my spouse’s emotional needs: (From his/her Top 5 Emotional Needs Survey)

Warning to men: She has emotional needs to be met. She has been uniquely wired for a greater capacity & greater need for emotional needs to be met - not the needs you think she needs, but the needs she knows she needs! Some may be a great personal challenge to fulfill.

Promise to men: If you do this she will be the most responsive wife you can ever imagine!

Warning to women: He actually does have emotional needs to be met. Whatever it seems like, he is not a ‘bump on a log’ or ‘lost in the fog.’ Learn patience, trusting God as a praying wife. Compliment every effort – don’t criticize or nag in times of failure & disappointment.

Promise to women: You will get what you reinforce - either what you compliment or what you criticize.

Gen. 2:18 “The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Function & Order

- **The core (design) of my marriage as God intended:**

1. “not good...to be alone” **Companionship**: Not good (either spouse) to feel alone in marriage; So we work to be best friends, souls mates, this is clearly ‘emotional harmony’ at its highest call.

2. “make a helper” **Compatible**: “we help each other” I need help – she needs help. Shared vision & goals for & in our marriage. My prayer; ‘God make us 1; heart, mind, spirit to spend & be spent for the sake of souls’ Work together to accomplish among other things a great marriage:

3. “suitable”; **Compliment**: ‘perfectly suited’ uniquely matched, Strength for weakness & weakness for strength, Trust, honor, respect & value your spouse’s wisdom, strengths & abilities.

- Truth: God has a vision for my marriage to be a **GREAT** marriage.

Gen 2:24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

His Needs Her Needs
Week 3 – Affection and Sexual Fulfillment

Large Group

Icebreaker: What was your first “big fight” about?

(Take a few minutes to review the notes on the back of this page.)

1. Luke 6:31 says, “*Do to others as you would have them do to you.*” Dr. Harley second law of marriage says: “*Meet your spouse’s needs as you would want your spouse to meet yours.*” How have you found this a hard rule for you to live by in the area meeting your spouse’s emotional needs?

In separate small groups (4-6 men or women) discuss:

Husbands:

2. Compare this in your mind: How often do you think about your need for sexual fulfillment? How often do you think about meeting her need for affection? Then answer this question: What would it look like for you to apply Harley’s second law (i.e. The Golden Rule) to these areas in your marriage? How does 1 Cor. 7:3-5 fit in here?
3. What challenge(s) do you face in creating an environment of affection in your marriage? How will you overcome these?
 - Too much testosterone! Affection was uncommon in my upbringing, it feels unnatural and quite challenging to comprehend and carry out.
 - Too much on my plate! Life’s demands keep me so busy that building an environment of affection is often overlooked!
 - Too much indifference! My selfishness has turned into sluggishness. I haven’t really strived to this point to give it my all!

Wives:

4. Compare this in your mind: How often do you think about your need for affection? How often do you think about meeting his need for sexual fulfillment? Then answer this question: What would it look like for you to apply Harley’s second law (i.e. The Golden Rule) to these areas in your marriage? How does 1 Cor. 7:3-5 fit in here?
5. Wives, what challenge(s) do you face in creating a continual mindset and environment for sexual encounters with your husband?
 - The challenge of fully understanding his appetite for sexual fulfillment as it is not as prevalent in me.
 - The challenge of making myself available for him. I expend so much energy with kids, work, home management, etc. that I am exhausted by the end of the day.
 - The challenge of putting more effort into it. Including learning to spice it up, mix it up and make it more exciting for him.

Prayer: Pray in your smaller groups for the person on your left: That he/she would commit to putting more effort, time and thought into meeting his/her spouse’s needs than getting his/her own needs met.

Homework

Let's admit it guys – most of us need help. Wives, it's your help that we need most. Together, take the time this week or tonight if you have time after the discussion to do the following:

From the building affection grocery list below, come up with her 'top 5' affection builders for the husband to do. Please note, wives you can certainly have more than 5! (smile guys)

- _____ Hug and kiss her each morning when you wake.
- _____ Hug and kiss her before you leave for work.
- _____ Tell her you love her during breakfast.
- _____ Call her during the day to say hi and see how she's doing.
- _____ Surprise her with flowers occasionally and for know reason at all.
- _____ Give her gifts & cards for all her special days – anniversary, valentine, birthday.
- _____ Call her before you come home to let her know when she can expect you.
- _____ Upon arriving home greet her with a kiss and ask her (listen) how the day was.
- _____ Help her with a task after dinner like dishes, taking out the trash,
- _____ Hug and kiss her before you go to sleep at night.
- _____ Hold her hand often.
- _____ Anything else she really likes. (be specific)

His Needs Her Needs – Class outline & Notes
Week 3 – Affection and Sexual Fulfillment

Affection and sexual fulfillment always go hand in hand. Dr. Willard Harley, His Needs Her Needs,
“When it comes to sex and affection you can’t have one without the other.”

If I were to say the word intimacy what is the first words that pops into your mind?

Ladies _____ Gentlemen: _____

There in lies the problem – how we view the subject vs. how our spouse views the subject.

- Intimacy: “Into me see” – “See me for who I am not who you think I am!”

Dr. Harley: His Needs Her Needs, “The typical wife doesn’t understand her husband’s deep need for sex any more than the typical husband understands his wife’s deep need for affection.”

1 Corinthians 7:3-5a: “The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time...”

Gen 1:27-2:18:

God institutes marriage as the primary vehicle to meet a man’s search for **SIGNIFICANCE**.

God institutes marriage as the primary vehicle to meet a woman’s search for **SECURITY**

Let us now compare how men and women view sex and intimacy:

Women:

She is slow to arousal

Focus on the experience

Sex is an emotional event

Begins with how she feels

Creates intimacy & love: Security

Men:

He is quick to arousal

Focus on the act

Sex is a physical event

Begins with what he sees

Creates love & intimacy: Significance

- A husband must understand intimacy from his wife’s point of view.
 - **Men, she wants Your mind...**
- A wife must understand sex & intimacy from her husband’s point of view.
 - **Ladies, he wants Your body...**

In a healthy, vibrant, mature marriage:

A husband strives to view intimacy & sex from his wife’s viewpoint. It is the total experience of the mind first and then the body – an emotional encounter and then a physical encounter.

Sexual intimacy & expression is a key component of her search for security—her womanhood

A wife strives to view intimacy & sex from her husband’s viewpoint. It is the total experience of the body first and then the mind – a physical encounter and then an emotional encounter.

Sexual intimacy & expression is a key component of his search for significance – his manhood.

God invented affection, sexual expression and intimacy so have fun and enjoy it!

His Needs Her Needs
Week 4 – Conversation and Recreational Companionship

Large Group

Icebreaker: What was your most enjoyable vacation together?

(Take a few minutes to review the notes on the back of this page.)

In small groups (4-6 people) discuss:

Dr. Harley's third law of marriage: "*Caring partners converse in a caring way.*"

1. Husbands, read & reflect on **1Peter 3:7**: "*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker (delicate) partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*"
 - In what way(s) could you better demonstrate caring and sensitivity to your wife's need for conversation?
 - What does this prayer say that you can expect to happen if you fail to treat your wife properly? Why do you think this issue is so important to God?

2. Wives, read & reflect **Ecclesiastes 8:5-6**: "*Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.*"
 - In what way(s) can you be better or more creative in coaching and guiding your husband's ability or lack thereof for meaningful conversation?
 - What harm can you expect to when you criticize his abilities, fail to coach, or allow others to meet your needs when it comes to conversation with your spouse?

Harley's fourth law of marriage says: "*The couple that plays together stays together.*"

3. List what you think are your spouse's top 5 favorite recreational enjoyments.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

Now ask your spouse how close you actually were. Share any surprises.

4. From the lists above or from appendix C (pg 209-212) come up with "your" top 5 list!
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

How much time to you spend on doing what is on "your" list?

Prayer: Pray for the couple on your right: That they would grow in their ability to have conversation and commit to spending time doing together what they both enjoy doing.

His Needs Her Needs – Class outline & Notes
Week 4 – Conversation and Recreational Companionship

Conversation:

Absolutely essential to a strong marriage is communication which simply means conversation.

- At the heart of all good conversation is **RESPECT**.

1Peter 3:7 “*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*”

- ‘Weaker’ vessel means priceless; delicate; emotional (it is a ‘very good’ part of God’s plan)
- Husbands, you must win the battle of respecting our wife’s need for conversation!

What does it mean to “be considerate”: (understand value as a person, who they are, what they need)

What does it mean “with respect”: (honor, especially her need for intimacy thru conversation)

- On average a woman will speak twice as many words a day than a man.

Four Levels of Conversation:

Examples:

Level 1: **Facts**

‘cold for almost being spring’

Level 2: **Facts & Figures**

‘cold & -25 degrees’

Level 3: **Facts, Figures, Feelings**

‘cold, -25, ‘feel like staying in bed’

Level 4: **Facts, Figures, Feelings, Emotions**

‘cold, -25, feel like stay/bed & I’m depressed by the cold weather’

- Avg. male speaks 75% in levels 1 & 2; Avg. female speaks 75% in levels 3 & 4.

Problem: We are naturally worlds apart in our levels with each other. This must change in marriage!

Dangers: Men:

1. We think we don’t have to **MEET** the need.
2. We let **OTHERS** meet the need. (Other women or down the road...another man.)

Dangers: Ladies:

1. Become **FRUSTRATED** too quickly with your husband’s development. (See Eccl. 8:5-6)
2. Let other **WOMEN** meet my need. (There is nothing wrong with intimacy w/girlfriends, but in your circle - Keep the #1 parking space open always for him.)

From Dr. Harley - take initiative and make time to converse (recommend 15 hrs/wk)

Recreational Companionship: Dr. Harley “The couple that plays together stays together”

Ladies, he wants and needs you to be his **playmate**.

What that doesn’t mean: “*Doing everything he enjoys, even those activities you hate.*”

What it does mean: “*Doing things he enjoys, even when you don’t enjoy them as much as he does.*”

Dr. Harley (pg 88) “Engage in only those recreational activities that both you and your spouse can enjoy together.”

General rule: It is good and healthy to have personal recreational enjoyments like sports, crafts, and hobbies, but not at the expense of having no time for ‘your’ recreational enjoyment.

His Needs Her Needs
Week 5 – Honesty & Openness & Physical Attractiveness

Large Group

Icebreaker: When was your last date? What did you do and where did you go?

(Take a few minutes to review the notes on the back of this page.)

In small groups (4-6 people) discuss:

1. Dr. Harley states on page 100-101: “Although you may find it threatening to think your spouse might have the right to read your mail and go through your purse, I believe this kind of openness is indispensable for a healthy marriage.”

Do you agree or disagree with his assessment of this level of openness in your marriage? Why or why not? Please explain and give an example for your position.

2. [Men primarily] What basis can you see in Ephesians 4:25 for choosing to share the open and honest details of your life with your wife? How have you experienced a tendency to think less of your wife because she wants all the intimate details of your life? What is the result?
3. [Men primarily] What challenges do you face in coming to the level of honesty and openness that your wife needs to feel secure in your marriage?
(A few examples may include: “*Sometimes I think my deepest feelings may hurt her or cause her anxiety.*” Or “*I can easily do without a lot of details in my relationship with her because of the time and energy it takes to maintain the openness she needs.*” Or “*Honestly, I just don’t get how the details of my boring life make her feel secure.*”)
4. [Ladies primarily] When have you ever (or been tempted to) think less of your husband because he wants you to be a ‘looker’ all the time?
5. [Ladies primarily] What basis do you think 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 gives for striving to look your best every day for your husband? What are some of the excuses you tell yourself you have for not looking your best?

Prayer: Pray for the couple on your left: That they would grow in their ability to be open and honest and to strive to be physically attractive – especially when it feels unnecessary, pointless or unnatural.

His Needs Her Needs – Class outline & Notes
Week 5 – Honesty, Openness & Physical Attractiveness

Honesty and Openness:

Absolutely essential to a strong marriage is a spirit of honesty and openness.

Bottom line: **NOTHING** hidden or left uncovered.

A vibrant marriage must invite and welcome honesty and openness without the fear of retaliation (upset about truth & attack) or rejection (deny/reject our spouse's feelings) in order to foster a healthy environment of trust!

Bottom line: A need for **TRANSPARENCY**: To allow our spouse to see into us!

At the heart of honesty and openness is **TRUST** - spoken and unspoken.

Ephesians 4:25 “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.”

One of the greatest mistakes in communication is made when we speak to be heard rather than speak to be **UNDERSTOOD**.

- Warning signs: volume, tone, anger and attacks on character.

Bottom line: Let her have all the **DETAILS** she wants.* It develops intimacy for her. It allows her to see into you and feel close to you. It provides security for her.

Dr. Harley: (pg. 95) “A sense of security is the bright golden thread woven through all of a woman's five basic needs.”

- Some professions might not permit this. (i.e. military, teacher, social worker, etc.)

Before there is open season on truth, consider **Ephesians 4:29** “Do not let any unwholesome (putrid) talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building (edify) others up according to their needs, that it may benefit (lovely) those who listen.”

1. unwholesome: not allowed to verbally vomit on our spouse
2. helpful for building up: motivated to make our spouse a better (built up) person.
3. may benefit those who listen: ‘easy listening’ - lovely to receive

Bottom line: We must literally have our listener's best interests at heart when we speak.

Physical Attractiveness:

1 Corinthians 7:3-5: “The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent...”

Wives: we must fulfill our marital duty to our husbands.

- Wives, our husbands are attracted through their **EYE** gate – by what they see.

You must understand that your husband still **DESIRES** to be **PHYSICALLY** attracted to you all through his married years.

Bottom line: keep your physical appearance neat and attractive.

His Needs Her Needs
Week 6 – Financial Support & Domestic Support

Large Group

Icebreaker: Are you a Saver or a Spender when it comes to money?

(Take a few minutes to review the notes on the back of this page.)

In small groups (4-6 people) discuss:

1. Husbands, do you feel a wife's first priority should be to her family before her career?
Wives, do you feel a husband's first priority should be to his family before his career?
Explain, your answer.
2. Which is harder for you to get control of: tracking what you spend or watching what you buy?
What problems (i.e. arguments) has this caused?
3. Husbands, if your wife were asked this question privately, *"Does your husband spend more money and/or more time on himself than his family?"* How do you think she would answer this question? Why?
4. Wives, if your husband were asked this question privately, *"Does your wife spend enough time making the home your personal sanctuary?"* How do you think he would answer this question? Why?
5. Identify 3 things your spouse does around the home that triggers the feeling of love in you. (In other words, what really deposits points in your love bank.)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
6. Compare your list with your spouse's. Are there any surprises? How can you plan to do the things on your spouse's list this week? How might Gal. 6:7-8 apply to this plan?

Prayer: Pray for the couple on your left: That they would "sow to the spirit" by committing themselves to a plan of making deposits in each others love bank through the things listed in #5 – this week.

His Needs Her Needs – Notes & Outline
Week 6 – Financial Support & Domestic Support

Financial Support: (her need) If she wants him to provide her with a castle to live in then he wants her to make this castle his home.

It's worth repeating again: My wife's greatest need in our marriage is **SECURITY**.

Scenario #1: They decide she will be a stay at home, working wife then:

- He has the responsibility to financially **PROVIDE** for that decision.
- She has a responsibility to financially **GUIDE** this decision. (Frugal – Budget – Content)

Scenario #2: They decide she will be an out of the home, working wife then:

- They have a responsibility to financially provide for this decision.
- They have a responsibility to financially guide this decision. (Frugal – Budget – Content)

How to get your finances in order? Track what you SPEND and watch what you BUY.

Prv 21:20, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all that he has." Without a budget, we are all broke, just at different levels.

- Ecclesiastes 5:11, "As goods increase and so do those that consume them."

The blessings and power of using a budget

1: Keeps financial spending focused.

3: Allows you to spot financial problems.

2: Saves you money.

4: Brings lasting peace of mind & confidence.

Watch what you buy:

4 reasons people buy:

1. Out of necessity.

3. For practical purposes.

2. For convenience sake.

4. To improve our status.

4 reasons people spend unwisely:

1. Because people are impulsive:

3. Because people are compulsive:

2. Because people seek status:

4. Because people are special interest shoppers

Domestic Support: (his need)

This includes: The care, upkeep and management of the total **ENVIRONMENT** of the home.

The home must be a sanctuary. The home must be a place of tranquility!

- Ladies: Your husband wants to come home to an environment that brings him **PEACE**. "His home needs to be his castle"

This means the dual care, upkeep, management and **RESPONSIBILITY** of both spouses to make their home and their marriage a tranquil one.

- Roles and responsibilities that are fair and balanced that create order, function and purpose in the home.

James Dobson says, "The number one pressure that creates disharmony in families is the insane schedules that families try to keep."

- He has the responsibility to **PROVIDE** for her emotional need for domestic support.
- She has the responsibility to **PROVIDE** for his emotional need for domestic support.

They have the responsibility to provide for each other's emotional need for domestic support.

His Needs Her Needs
Week 7 – Family Commitment & Admiration

Large Group

Icebreaker: Who is someone you know that has a marriage/family that you admire? Why?

(Take a few minutes to review the notes on the attached pages.)

In small groups (4-6 people) discuss:

1. How well did your father demonstrate his commitment to being a family man? How well did your mother display the attributes of an admiring wife? (Please share honestly, but honorably.)

2. Dr. Harley suggests men dedicate 15 hours per week to being a family man. That is a 15 hour per week commitment to the spiritual, emotional and physical development of your children.
 - Does that seem unrealistic? What changes would you need to make in your life to make this happen?

3. Men, which is a greater challenge for you as the leader of your family: being harsh or abdicating your responsibility? How do verses like Ps. 127:5, Malachi 2:15 and Matthew 5:13-15, motivate and inspire you to be (or learn to be) the best family man you can be?

4. Ladies, what is easier for you to do, criticize or compliment your husband's current leadership skills? If your husband were asked, "Does your wife nag too much?" How do you think he would answer?

5. Wives, how could you be a better coach to your husband to help him develop stronger spiritual leadership qualities?

6. How do you think these two needs might be connected: Family Commitment and Admiration? (If your commitment to the one decreases, what happens to the other?)

Prayer: Pray for the couple on your right: That he would be the strong spiritual leader God wants him to be and that she would be the admiring and supportive wife God wants her to be.

His Needs Her Needs – Outline & Notes
Week 7 – Family Commitment & Admiration

Family Commitment:

Gen. 2:24 *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”*

- A husband’s first obligation is to his wife and his marriage. His first responsibility (above career, personal pursuits) is to initiate and develop in his marriage a new, nuclear family where she is affirmed, nurtured & develops a deep sense of intimacy and worth as a wife.

Deut. 24:5 *“If a man has recently married...For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.”*

- The first year of marriage is where the critical foundations are laid by the husband to create an environment of unity, harmony & security for his wife in the marriage union.

Bottom line: She needs him to be a good father. But **FIRST** he needs to be a good **HUSBAND**.

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”
Ephesians 6:4

Truths behind the verse:

1. “Fathers”: Dad must be the leader in the child’s overall development.
2. “exasperate”: provoke or frustrate; Many ways to frustrate our kids:
3. “training and instruction of the Lord”: To nurture as a tender plant. The Word of God must be supreme in my child’s life.
 - Ps 127:3 “children are a heritage from the Lord.” Serious business – men: I’ll be honest as pastor it hurts when men abdicate; “Silence of Adam”
 - Malachi 2:15, “Has not the Lord made them one? And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring.”
 - Matt 5:13-15 ‘salt & light’ Next generation of godly men & women to influence and impact the world

Bottom line: It’s not a matter of **finding** the time but **MAKING** the time to be a family man.

Admiration:

Genesis 1:28 “God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Ladies: The number one need for your husband in marriage is **SIGNIFICANCE**.

- Your husbands are uniquely wired to find significance:
 1. By what they conquer or accomplish
 2. By ruling or leading.

Bottom line: Men, you need to understand that your greatest significance and your greatest accomplishment will come from being a strong **SPIRITUAL** leader.

- Your strong, spiritual leadership will bring the deepest sense of security to your wife.

Fallen man is not a natural leader but a flawed leader. This means he can lean to 1 of 2 extremes:

1. Gen 3:8, He **abdicates** his responsibility;
2. Gen 3:16, He rules **harshly**;

Dr. Harley, (pg 156) “A woman needs to appreciate her husband for what he already is, not what he could become, if he lived up to her standards.”

Ladies: a few responsibilities in assisting the development of leadership in our husbands:

1. Must learn to **coach** him but not **MOTHER** him.
 2. Must understand that you will get either what you **compliment** or **CRITICIZE**.
 3. Our greatest enemy is **NAGGING** him.
- A good example, say this: “I love when you read the Bible to the kids at bedtime”

Ephesians 5:33b, “and the wife must respect her husband.”

When a wife learns the art of admiration – she will foster or develop 3 traits in him

1. Admiration helps him **believe** in himself – stronger self image
2. Admiration energizes and **motivates** him – to be a better man, husband & father.
3. Admiration builds his **confidence** – becoming more self assured & assertive.

Bottom line: “Behind every man should be an **admiring** wife.”

His Needs Her Needs
Week 8 – His Needs, Her Needs Final Exam:
Incompatible to Irresistible

Large Group

Icebreaker: Take the “Final Exam” (without looking at your notes), then see how each of you did. (Your group leader has the answer key.) Do you think you might need to review these truths in order to apply them regularly?

(Take a few minutes to review the notes on the attached pages.)

In small groups (4-6 people) discuss:

1. What was the most valuable truth you learned in this study? What benefit do you think it will bring to your marriage?

2. What will you do to implement that truth in your marriage?

3. To become an irresistible spouse, Dr. Harley suggests that we meet each other’s most important emotional needs. What did you discover was your spouse’s #1 emotional need? List 3 ways you intend on meeting that need.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

4. What did you discover was your spouse’s #2 emotional need? List 3 ways you intend on meeting that need.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

5. What do you think might keep you from following through on these good intentions?

Prayer: Pray for the couple on your right, wives for wives and husbands for husbands:

“Dear Lord, help _____ to do what it takes to meet his/her spouse’s top emotional needs. Grant your grace and power for him/her to follow through on these good intentions and to overcome anything that would prevent him/her from meeting the top needs of his/her spouse. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

His Needs Her Needs – Final Exam:
Week 8 – Incompatible to Irresistible

WEEK 1 - Truth: God has a vision for my marriage to be a GREAT marriage.

Gen 2:24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

What are the 3 Enemies of every (my) marriage:

1. **S** _____: Gen. 3:1-6; 2. **S** _____: Gal. 5:17 3. **S** _____: Heb. 6:12

WEEK 2 - What is the core design of my marriage as God intended: Genesis 2:18

1. “not good...to be alone” **C** _____: Not good to feel alone in marriage
2. “make a helper” **C** _____: “we help each other”
3. “suitable” **C** _____: ‘perfectly suited’ or uniquely matched,

WEEK 3 - Dr. Harley: “The typical wife doesn’t understand her husband’s deep need for sex any more than the typical husband understands his wife’s deep need for affection.”

God institutes marriage as the primary vehicle used to meet a man’s need for **S** _____.

God institutes marriage as the primary vehicle used to meet a woman’s need for **S** _____.

WEEK 4 - Four Levels of Conversation:

Examples:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Level 1 = _____ | ‘cold for almost being spring’ |
| Level 2 = _____ | ‘cold & -16 degrees’ |
| Level 3 = _____ | ‘cold, -25, ‘feel like staying in bed’ |
| Level 4 = _____ | ‘cold, -25, feel like stay/bed & depressed w/cold weather’ |

What are the 2 greatest dangers in conversation between a man and a woman?

- Men:**
1. We think we don’t have to **M** _____ the need.
 2. We let **O** _____ meet the need.

- Ladies:**
1. Become **F** _____ too quickly with husband’s development. (Ecc. 8:5-6)
 2. Let other **W** _____ meet my need.

WEEK 5 - Absolutely essential to a strong marriage is a spirit of honesty and openness.

Bottom line: **N** _____ hidden or left uncovered.

A vibrant marriage must have a spirit that invites and welcomes honesty and openness without the fear of retaliation or rejection to foster a healthy environment of trust!

Bottom line: A need for **T** _____: To allow our spouse to see into us!

WEEK 6 - How to get your finances in order? Track what you **S** _____ & watch what you **B** _____.

Proverb 21:20, “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all that he has.” - Without a budget, we are all broke, just at different levels.

- Ecclesiastes 5:11, “As goods increase and so do those that consume them.”

WEEK 7 - She needs him to be a good father. But **F** _____ he needs to be a good **H** _____.

“Behind every man should be an **A** _____ wife.”

ANSWER KEY: His Needs Her Needs – Final Exam:
Week 8 – Incompatible to Irresistible

WEEK 1 - Truth: God has a vision for my marriage to be a GREAT marriage.

Gen 2:24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

What are the 3 Enemies of every (my) marriage:

1. **SATAN**: Gen. 3:1-6; 2. **SINFULNESS**: Gal. 5:17 3. **SLOTHFULNESS**: Heb. 6:12

WEEK 2 - What is the core design of my marriage as God intended: Genesis 2:18

1. “not good...to be alone” **COMPANIONSHIP**: Not good to feel alone in marriage
2. “make a helper” **COMPATIBLE**: “we help each other”
3. “suitable” **COMPLIMENT**: ‘perfectly suited’ or uniquely matched,

WEEK 3 - Dr. Harley: “The typical wife doesn’t understand her husband’s deep need for sex any more than the typical husband understands his wife’s deep need for affection.”

God institutes marriage as the primary vehicle used to meet a man’s need for **SIGNIFICANCE**.

God institutes marriage as the primary vehicle used to meet a woman’s need for **SECURITY**.

WEEK 4 - Four Levels of Conversation:

Level 1= **Facts**

Level 2= **Facts & Figures**

Level 3= **Facts, Figures, Feelings**:

Level 4= **Facts, Figures, Feelings, Emotions**:

Examples:

‘cold for almost being spring’

‘cold & -16 degrees’

‘cold, -25, ‘feel like staying in bed’

‘cold, -25, feel like stay/bed & depressed w/cold weather’

What are the 2 greatest dangers in conversation between a man and a woman?

Men: 1. We think we don’t have to **MEET** the need.
3. We let **OTHERS** meet the need.

Ladies: 1. Become **FRUSTRATED** too quickly with husband’s development. (Ecc. 8:5-6)
3. Let other **WOMEN** meet my need.

WEEK 5 - Absolutely essential to a strong marriage is a spirit of honesty and openness.

Bottom line: **NOTHING** hidden or left uncovered.

A vibrant marriage must have a spirit that invites and welcomes honesty and openness without the fear of retaliation or rejection to foster a healthy environment of trust!

Bottom line: A need for **TRANSPARENCY**: To allow our spouse to see into us!

WEEK 6 - How to get your finances in order? Track what you **SPEND** & watch what you **BUY**.

Proverb 21:20, “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all that he has.” - Without a budget, we are all broke, just at different levels.

- Ecclesiastes 5:11, “As goods increase and so do those that consume them.”

WEEK 7 - She needs him to be a good father. But **FIRST** he needs to be a good **HUSBAND**.

“Behind every man should be an **ADMIRING** wife.”