

## **SESSION 4: V - VISION Handout**

### **The VISION to Align with God's Original Plan**

Every person goes into a marriage with their own vision (ideas) of how it should be however a healthy marriage involves creating an aligned **vision to weave God in**. Without it, couples can drift into survival mode—managing bills, schedules, responsibilities and independent goals— while missing the greater calling God intended for their relationship.

“Where there is no prophetic vision, the people cast off restraint but blessed is he who keeps the law.” Proverbs 29:18

Weaving God into your marriage requires a clear **VISION** which is found by:

1. Understanding your **PURPOSE**
2. Creating a Strategic **PLAN**
3. Aligning your **PRIORITIES**

### **1. Understanding Purpose**

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” Genesis 1:27–28

From creation, God designed men and women to **live purposefully**, both individually and together. Marriage is the context in which God's purposes intersect—where personal growth, complementary roles, and shared calling converge to glorify Him.

God does not unite a man and woman merely so they can coexist but for a divine **Purpose**:

1. **Reflect His image**
2. **Build a life that multiplies His goodness**
3. **Extend His influence in the world.**

God created every person with purpose—not only individually, but also within the covenant of marriage.

- **Individually:** Each believer is called to grow in Christlikeness, steward their gifts faithfully, and live in obedience to Him (**Romans 8:29**).
- **Within marriage:** That purpose expands into a shared calling where:
  - A husband is entrusted to **lead with Christlike love**, cherish his wife, and protect the spiritual health of the home (**Ephesians 5:25,23**).
  - A wife is called to come alongside as a **wise and faithful helper**, supporting, strengthening, honouring her husband, and nurturing the life they build together (**Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:33**).

## **SESSION 4: V - VISION Handout**

As both pursue Christ, their **distinct roles work in harmony** to cultivate a marriage that unites them as **one flesh (Ecclesiastes 4:12)** and **aligns with God's original design** (verses above).

When both spouses embrace their God-given roles with clarity, the marriage becomes:

- Focused on **Kingdom Impact**
- Guided by a **Shared Purpose**
- **Resilient** in the face of challenges
- A living **Testimony** of God's Love and Faithfulness (**Matthew 5:16**)
- More **Complete** and **Joyful**

A strong vision ensures your marriage is not just about coexisting, but about **building a legacy that glorifies God and blesses others (Joshua 24:15)**.

### **2. Vision Requires a Strategic PLAN**

The Strategic Plan is the **"How"** of living out God's Purpose for your marriage, so you can put it into action.

"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads its." Habakkuk 2:2

#### **The Pathway:**

#### **Thoughts → Beliefs → Values → Actions → Habits → Behaviour**

(taken from Foundations of Jesus Christ Ministries)

Thoughts become what we Believe. Our Beliefs ground our Values. Values dictate our Words/Actions. Our Actions become a pattern of Habits. Our Habits shape our Behavior.

*"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."* Romans 12:2

#### **The goal in Marriage is to:**

- 1) **Align your Thinking to Reflect His Image** - Every marriage challenge starts in the mind. If your thinking is misaligned, your marriage will be misaligned.
- 2) **Align your Actions to Multiply His Goodness** - What you *do consistently* is what you are building. If your purpose is to multiply God's goodness, your marriage must reflect:
  - Love
  - Respect
  - Service
  - Unity

## **SESSION 4: V - VISION Handout**

- 3) **Align your Habits to Extend His Influence** - Your habits determine the culture of your marriage—and that culture impacts others. You extend God's influence through **consistent patterns**.

### **Result of a Strategic Plan**

When your plan aligns with God's purpose, your marriage becomes:

- **Proactive rather than reactive**
- **Transformed through renewed thinking** (Romans 12:2)
- **Unified in direction and decision-making**
- **A consistent reflection of Christ in everyday life**

**Purpose** shows you *why* your marriage exists. A **plan** helps you *live out your purpose through intentional actions and also help you to avoid drifting apart*.

### **3. Aligning Your PRIORITIES** (The Guardrails)

A Vision is only as strong as the boundaries that protect it. In a world of endless demands, your marriage will not stay rooted in Christ and focused on each other by accident. It requires Guardrails—intentional boundaries that keep your covenant as your primary earthly focus.

- Your marriage is your first ministry after God. While parenting, career, and community service are important, the "**one flesh**" union is the **priority** that **supports** all other areas of life.
- **The Danger of "Good"**: Most marriages aren't derailed by "bad" things; they are slowly suffocated by "good" things (career success, children's sports, or social obligations) that have moved into the primary spot.
- **The Drift**: Without a priority check, couples naturally drift from partners to roommates. Staying focused on your marriage as a priority, is the anchor that prevents drift.

### **Establishing Biblical Guardrails**

To keep your marriage at the center, you must build fences around your **time**, **heart**, and **energy**:

- **Protecting Your Time** (The Calendar Guardrail): If you are too busy for your spouse, you are busier than God intended you to be. Visionary couples learn to say "No" to the world so they can say "Yes" to their covenant.
- **Protecting Your Heart** (The Emotional Guardrail): In healthy relationships, your spouse should be the first person you turn to. Guardrails protect you from seeking emotional fulfillment in work, friends, or digital distractions.

## **SESSION 4: V - VISION Handout**

- Protecting Your **Energy** (The Service Guardrail): It is easy to give your "best" to your work or children and leave what's left for your spouse. Realigning priorities means ensuring your spouse gets the focused attention they need to feel supported, connected and loved. It's not always about the length of time as it is the quality of time.

### **Summary – the 3 Strands of Vision to Align with God's Design for Marriage**

1. **PURPOSE:** Shows you "**Why**" your marriage exists and your unique roles within marriage.
2. **PLAN:** "**How**" to live out God's purpose for your lives and marriage.
3. **PRIORITY:** "**What**" you need to do to stay focused on building a strong marriage in alignment with God's design, so you can truly experience the fullness and abundance of His original plan.