

MARRIAGE STUDY | CLOSER CONNECTION

It's time to dig into some content and grow together. Remember, this is a safe environment and your input is valid and welcome, so join in!

WIN

Grow in your communication with your spouse, with other couples, and in your relationship with God.

CONNECT

Spend some time sharing about the past week and connect on a personal level through icebreaker questions.

LEARN

We all know communication is important in marriage. But what makes it so difficult?

Communication is one of those things that can either push spouses apart or bring them closer together. Nearly everything we do communicates a message, so what happens if the two of you seem to be speaking different languages?

In this group study, you'll have the opportunity to discover why communication might be an issue for you and how it can get easier. Are you ready to get closer with better communication?

Create a **free RightNow Media** account to access content.

Create an Account: <https://tinyurl.com/hh64rg3d>

Closer Connection Study Link: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/355990>

Watch

Session 1: Watch videos from Closer Connection Sessions 1 and 2 (25 minutes total) and respond to this week's discussion questions.

Session 2: Watch videos from Closer Connection Sessions 3 and 4 (24 minutes total) and respond to this week's discussion questions.

Session 3: Watch videos from Closer Connection Sessions 5 and 6 (22 minutes total) and respond to this week's discussion questions.

Discuss

This document has all you'll need for each week during your group's marriage study (Sessions 2–4).

WHAT'S NEXT

You'll continue with your study for three sessions. The group leader will send out specifics and any light homework to do prior to your next group meeting.



SESSION 1: MARRIAGE STUDY | CLOSER CONNECTION

This week, we'll learn how to define effective communication and why it's often difficult. We'll also take a look at the methods we use to communicate and filters through which we often receive communication from others.

Study Link

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/355990>

Session 1: Watch the videos from Closer Connection Sessions 1 and 2 (25 minutes total) and respond to this week's discussion questions.

Discuss

Closer Connection Session 1 Video

- What adds stress to your marriage?
- Why do you think communication in marriage can be so difficult?
- Why didn't you have as many communication issues when you were dating?
- What would you consider effective communication?
- What are some things that get in the way of your communication in marriage?

Closer Connection Session 2 Video

- Can you tell when your spouse doesn't understand what you've said or asked? How?
- How do you communicate the most: in person, phone, text, or email?
- Do you need to make any changes based on what you've learned?
- What filters show up when you are in an argument? Where did those filters come from?
- How do you find your worth?

PRAY

Ask God to soften your heart toward your spouse even more over the next few weeks.

WHAT'S NEXT

You'll continue with your study for three group sessions. The group leader will send out specifics and any light homework to do prior to your next group meeting.

SESSION 2: MARRIAGE STUDY | CLOSER CONNECTION

Today, we'll discuss four communication dynamics in order to better understand how people communicate differently from one another. We'll also talk about the role stress plays in communication.

Study Link

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/355990>

Session 2: Watch the videos from Closer Connection Sessions 3 and 4 (24 minutes total) and respond to this week's discussion questions.

Discuss

Closer Connection Session 3 Video

- Why do we get upset when our spouse doesn't give us what we want in a conversation?
- How does the way we communicate impact the way we feel?
- We each have preferred ways of giving and receiving information. Which of the four communication dynamics (Creative, Grounding, Logic, Relationship) do you most closely identify with? Which best applies to your spouse?
- How does your combination of dynamics affect your marriage?

Closer Connection Session 4 Video

- Read James 1:19. Which of the three parts of this verse is hardest for you (being quick to listen, slow to speak, or slow to become angry)? How can you improve?
- When there's a lot of stress in a situation, how do you deal with it?
- What are your spouse's top three stressors? If you don't know, ask.
- What are three to five things people do that make communication difficult?
- What are three to five things people do that make communication easier?

PRAY

Ask God to show you different ways you can improve your communication with others and help you redirect all of your worries to Jesus.

WHAT'S NEXT

You'll continue with your study for three sessions. The group leader will send out specifics and any light homework to do prior to your next group meeting.

SESSION 3: MARRIAGE STUDY | CLOSER CONNECTION

This week, we'll discuss the value of good listening and learn how to improve listening skills. We'll also discuss the idea of the *servant communicator*.

Study Link

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/355990>

Session 3: Watch the videos from Closer Connection Sessions 5 and 6 (22 minutes total) and respond to this week's discussion questions.

Discuss

Closer Connection Session 5 Video

- Read [Proverbs 18:1-2](#). What lessons do these verses teach about speaking vs. listening?
- What does your spouse do that indicates they may not be listening?
- What did LURE stand for? Do you think you can put this to use in your communication? Why or why not?
- When is your spouse a good listener?

Closer Connection Session 6 Video

- Why is it important to assume positive rather than negative intent in communication?
- What can you do to reduce the stress in your conversations?
- How can you serve your spouse better in the area of communication?
- What is one thing you can do to make your communication better?
- Fill in the blanks and explain: "I have learned _____ about how we communicate, and I love that because _____."

PRAY

Ask God to allow what you've learned to help you create healthier communication habits in your marriage and with others, and, through the Holy Spirit, push aside selfish desires so you can become more like Jesus.

WHAT'S NEXT

The group leader will send out specifics and any light homework to do prior to your next group meeting.