



WEEK ONE

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY

April 27 & 28, 2014

Pastor Harry Kuehl

It's a scary thing when you discover that the dysfunction you mock in a reality TV show, you suddenly see mirrored in your own marriage. What do you do when life begins to overwhelm and swamp the dream you had of living happily ever after with your spouse? How do you handle it when you wake up and realize our expectations far exceed our realities and the person we thought would be our best friend forever lets us down? If you're feeling swamped in your marriage, join us over the next 5 weeks as we uncover God's secrets for sustaining a marriage made in Heaven.

MESSAGE NOTES

GENESIS 2:18-25

PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. **Do you think you know yourself best or does the person closest to you know you best?** Could you defend your opinion on this if you had to?

2. **Read the scripture verses from this weekend's message, Genesis 2:18-25. Why do you think God told Adam to name all the animals?**

God addresses Adam's aloneness by saying He will make a 'helper' for him, rather than a 'companion.' Why do you think He phrased it that way?

3. **What have you learned about God through your closest relationships?**

What have you learned about yourself?

4. Take a look at 1 Corinthians 13:11. What do you think it means to “reason like a child”?

How do you think most children maintain their closest personal relationships?

Is there any carry-over of these first personal skills into your adult relationships or your marriage, if you are married?

5. Communication is a big part of a true connection with someone else.

What makes a good communicator? What part does listening play?

6. It has been said the secret to a great marriage – or any close relationship – lies more with you than in changing your spouse or circumstances. Do you agree? Why?

7. Author John Fischer wrote: “The success of marriage comes not in finding the ‘right’ person, but in the ability of both partners to adjust to the real person they inevitably realize they married.” What does this statement mean to you?

8. A Mayo Clinic article states: “Although you may have thought, as many people do, that happiness comes from being born rich or beautiful or living a stress-free life, the reality is that people who have wealth, beauty or less stress are not happier on average than those of who don't enjoy those blessings. People who are happy seem to intuitively know that their happiness is the sum of their life choices.” How much would you say God is involved in how you make life choices that affect the closest people in your life?

Personal Meditation: How a relationship starts very often determines where it will end up. This week consider how much time you spent in the past defining your dreams and expectations of your closest human relationships. How many of your expectations revolved around you? How many had (or have) more to do with the other person than with yourself? If there is imbalance here, pray for wisdom this week to adjust your expectations to align with 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Memorize Romans 12: 9-10 – “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”