

# The Talk Get to Work

A God honoring, soul-satisfying marriage doesn't just happen; it takes ongoing hard work (Song of Solomon 2:15). Healthy marriages require us to *catch the foxes* that spoil or ruin the vineyard of that relationship. Marriage must be a priority, especially when couples begin to have children. Raising kids is a temporary assignment, but building a marriage is a permanent one. When we cultivate and sow into our marriages (even above parenting), the whole family benefits and is blessed.

## GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you have worked hard for or towards that you found fulfillment, enjoyment or satisfaction in (e.g. sports, music, art, a particular project, losing weight, eating healthy, etc.)? Why do you think the hard work was so rewarding?

## GO DEEPER

1. In Luke 13:6-7, why did the fig tree not have fruit, even after three years, and why is the response of the vinedresser significant? What is the point that Jesus is making for us in this parable, and how does that apply to a marriage relationship?
2. In Proverbs 20:4, a sluggard fails to plow and plant in the autumn, and therefore has nothing at harvest when the time comes. What does it look like to be lazy (to be a sluggard) in marriage or in a significant relationship? In contrast, what should we sow in this season that we want to grow and harvest in the next season?
3. From Song of Solomon 2:15, what are the most common foxes you see in marriages, families, or friendships? When Solomon says the phrase *catch the foxes for us* in this verse, who is he addressing? Who can help in catching our foxes?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What possible foxes are affecting or *ruining the vineyard* of your marriage or your significant relationships in this season? What might be some initial steps to catch those foxes?
2. What do you need to sow into your marriage or singleness in this season so that you can harvest it in the next season?
3. *God-Spouse-Kids* is the right order of priority when it comes to our most significant relationships. Is this the order you have? If so, how do you keep this order in proper alignment? If not, what relationships have been elevated to an unhealthy importance, and what needs to change to establish the right order?

## PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully pray and ask God to help you *catch the foxes* in your marriage or significant relationships. Ask Him for wisdom in how to keep your marriage a priority, even in the child-rearing season of your family. And ask God to show you what to sow into your marriage or significant relationships now that you can harvest in the next season.

## BLESS

Who in your sphere of influence can you serve and bless in a simple but profound way this week? Make a plan today to offer a helping hand.