

Achieving Unity in Marriage

Why this topic?

Marriage is ordained of God, and God has commanded husbands and wives to cleave to one another (see [Genesis 2:24](#); [D&C 49:15](#)). Satan seeks to destroy marriages and encourages contention and disharmony. Unity in marriage requires conscious effort to draw close to one another and resist prideful tendencies. Married couples become more unified as they live true to their covenants, counsel together, and serve one another. As a result, their relationship becomes the source of true joy and eternal progression that Heavenly Father intends it to be.

Prepare for an inspiring meeting

What examples of unity in marriage (from the scriptures, stories in general conference talks, or personal experiences) will inspire those you teach? How will you invite all members, including those who are not married, to participate in a discussion on this topic?

What principles and blessings of marital unity can members discuss with each other? What are they already doing to achieve unity in their marriages?

As you pray and study the resources below, what impressions do you have about how to help members understand how to achieve greater unity in marriage?

[Genesis 2:24](#); [John 17:18–21](#); [1](#)

[Corinthians 11:11](#); [Mosiah 18:21](#); [D&C](#)

[38:27](#); [42:22](#); [Moses 5:1–12](#)

Elder Richard G. Scott, "[The Eternal Blessings of Marriage](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 94–97

Elder Russell M. Nelson, "[Nurturing Marriage](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2006, 36–38

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, "General Patterns and Specific Lives," *Worldwide Leadership*

Training Meeting: Building Up a

Righteous Posterity, Feb. 9, 2008, 2–3

Sister Sheri L. Dew, "[It Is Not Good for Man or Woman to Be Alone](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2001, 12–14

"[Honorable, Happy, Successful Marriage](#)," *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball*, (2006), 189–201

Videos: "[Saving Your Marriage](#)" (2:14); "[How Do I Love Thee?](#)" (2:48)

Begin the meeting

As you begin the meeting, think about how to help those you teach recognize the spiritual growth happening in their own lives and in their families. You could ask them to share what they have thought about or done as a result of last week's meeting, or you could prepare them for today's discussion by asking them to talk about what they can do to increase unity in marriage.

Ideas for learning together

How will you encourage those you teach to counsel together about unity in marriage? Here are some ideas. You may use one or more of these ideas, or you may use ideas of your own (see "Learning and Teaching Ideas").

- Members could study and discuss the chapter titled "[Honorable, Happy, Successful Marriage](#)" in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball*. Each member could choose one section of the chapter to review. Members could then share counsel they find about achieving unity in marriage. You could ask them what they feel impressed to do as a result of that counsel.
- Members may be inspired by examples of unity in marriage. For instance, you could read [Moses 5:1–12](#) to see how Adam and Eve worked together. Or you could read some of the examples Elder Richard G. Scott shares in his talk "[The Eternal Blessings of Marriage](#)." Ask the members what experiences they can share. What principles can we learn from these experiences?
- Members could watch the video "[How Do I Love Thee?](#)" in which Elder Jeffrey R. Holland describes unity in marriage, or "[Saving Your Marriage](#)," in which Elder Dallin H. Oaks testifies of the need for husbands and wives to constantly strengthen their relationship with each other. They could also review Sister Sheri L. Dew's talk "[It Is Not Good for Man or Woman to Be Alone](#)." How might these resources help members prepare for marriage or increase unity in marriage?

Take action

Help the members you teach think about how to apply what they have learned. How could they take action to increase unity in marriage this week? For example, you might ask:

- What have you felt today as you have pondered the topic of marriage? What do you feel the Spirit is prompting you to do?
- Who else could benefit from the principles you learned today? How could you bear your testimony to him or her?

You may want to ask class members to share other specific actions they feel inspired to take to increase unity in marriage.

Weeks 1 and 4: Locally Selected Topics

During the week, you may want to send out a reminder (through email, text message, or social media) to invite members to act on what they have learned and to share additional learning and teaching resources.

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