



It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will quite often talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

STAYING IN LOVE

In *Genesis 2:24*, God ordained marriage. In *Matthew 19:5*, Jesus stated a man and a woman should be joined together as one flesh and no one should separate them. Sadly the divorce rate in America is nearly 50% and according to sociologist professor Bradley Wright the divorce rate of people who attend church regularly is lower, but still 38%. We can survive and even thrive through the storms of marriage by understanding that there are **THREE STORMS WE FACE**.

STORM #1. The **CULTURE** we live in.

Discuss some destructive areas of culture that God warned us about in *2 Timothy 3:1-5*. How does God want us to think and conduct our lives in spite of the culture around us?

Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4

STORM #2. **CONFLICTS** we will live with.

What is the central cause of conflict?

Proverbs 13:10; James 4:1

What are some ways that you have dealt with conflict? How should we as Christians deal with conflict according to God's Word?

Philippians 2:3-5; Proverbs 17:14; Proverbs 19:11; Proverbs 18:6-7

STORM #3. **CRISES** we will live through.

Discuss how a crisis like a death in the family, unfaithfulness, or financial problems can destroy a marriage. According to God's Word, how can we keep our marriage strong even in a time of crisis?

Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 5:33

What's Next

- *Ephesians 6:12* says our battles are not with people, including our spouse. Our battles are with the rulers of darkness and we need to fight spiritual battles with spiritual weapons listed in *Ephesians 6*, and not by human means.
- *James 3:16* says where there is strife there is confusion and every evil work. This week, try to avoid strife at all costs.
- Love God, Love each other, pray together, and enjoy the marriage God planned for you and your spouse.