

LOVE YOU ANYWAY

IS MARRIAGE STILL WORTH WANTING?

PURITY '26 • WEEK 2

COMPLETE STUDENT + PARENT NOTES PACKET

Message summary • key themes • Scripture • goal breakdowns • Bible study questions • parent discussion guide •
flashcards

THE BIG IDEA

Broken examples can make marriage look like a trap. God's design says marriage is still good, still meaningful,
and still worth wanting.

THE FAMILY CHURCH YTH

MESSAGE ABSTRACT

This week's message asked a simple but weighty question: Is marriage still worth wanting? Many students have seen fighting, cheating, divorce, toxic relationships, or broken homes. Those examples can make marriage feel risky, outdated, or even frightening. The message challenged students not to confuse broken examples of marriage with God's original design for marriage.

The message then connected purity to the future. Purity is not only about avoiding a list of behaviors; it is about what we allow to rule us and what our repeated choices are forming in us. Pornography was addressed not simply as "something bad," but as something that can train us toward novelty, fantasy, objectification, taking, and no commitment - the opposite direction of faithful, self-giving marriage.

Finally, the message showed why marriage matters spiritually. Marriage is bigger than marriage: it is meant to point to the sacrificial love of Jesus for His Church. Students were challenged to consider the picture of marriage they carry, what pornography is training them to want, and what they would bring into a future marriage if nothing changed. The message ended with hope: students do not have to repeat the pain they came from. God redeems, forgives, and can help them write a different story.

KEY THEMES

- Marriage was God's idea before it was culture's idea.
- Broken marriages show what sin can do to something good; they do not prove God's design is bad.
- Porn can train us for the opposite of marriage.
- Marriage is meant to reflect Jesus' sacrificial love for His Church.
- Every yes is forming you - repeated choices become patterns, expectations, and habits.
- Your family history does not have to become your future.

KEY SCRIPTURE USED

SCRIPTURE	WHAT IT SHOWED	MESSAGE CONNECTION
Genesis 2:18	"It is not good for the man to be alone."	God created people for relationship and connection.
Genesis 2:24	A man and woman are united and become one flesh.	Marriage is part of God's design from the beginning.
Ephesians 5:25	Husbands are told to love as Christ loved the Church.	Marriage points beyond itself to sacrificial, Jesus-shaped love.

GOAL 1 • WHY IS MARRIAGE WORTH WANTING?

MARRIAGE WAS ALWAYS GOOD.

Humans brought brokenness into it.

The message started by acknowledging that many students have learned about marriage through painful examples. Some have watched people stay married but stop loving each other well. Some have seen fighting, cheating, divorce, or abuse. That can make marriage look like a trap instead of a gift.

The answer was not to pretend those experiences did not happen. The answer was to separate God's design from people's distortion of it. Marriage appears at the beginning of Scripture. Before sin entered the world, God had already designed relationship, partnership, connection, and one-flesh union.

WHAT GOD DESIGNED vs. WHAT SIN CAN TURN IT INTO

GOD'S DESIGN	CAN BECOME	WHAT CHANGES
Companionship	Loneliness	Two people can be together but emotionally disconnected.
Commitment	Quitting	Difficulty can become an excuse to stop fighting for what is good.
Partnership	Competition	"Us" can become "what can I get from you?"
Faithfulness	Cheating / secrecy	Trust is replaced by hiding and betrayal.
Building a life together	Self-fulfillment	The relationship becomes centered on what I want.

IMPORTANT BALANCE

The message also made clear that marriage is not the only faithful way to live. Some people may be called to singleness. The point was not "everyone must get married." The point was: even if marriage is not your future, do not call bad what God calls a gift.

REMEMBER

Bad marriages do not prove marriage is bad. They show what sin can do to something good.

GOAL 2 • WHAT IS SECRETLY DISTORTING OUR VIEW OF MARRIAGE?

PORN TRAINS US FOR THE OPPOSITE OF MARRIAGE.

The question was not only “Is porn bad?” but “What is it teaching me to want?”

The message challenged students to think about pornography as training. Repeated exposure can shape expectations about bodies, sex, intimacy, commitment, and what we believe people are for. The concern is not only a moment of behavior; it is the direction a habit can train the heart and mind.

THE CONTRAST

PORN SAYS...	MARRIAGE SAYS...
Always someone new.	Choose one person.
Take what you want.	Give of yourself.
Fantasy on demand.	Love a real person with real feelings.
No commitment required.	Practice faithfulness and commitment.
Consume.	Serve.

WHAT THE MESSAGE SAID PORN CAN DO

- Train us to always want something new.
- Turn people into bodies instead of people to love.
- Create unrealistic expectations about sex and relationships.
- Make real intimacy feel less exciting than fantasy.
- Teach us to take instead of give.

A QUESTION TO REMEMBER

Name one way porn helps your future marriage - one thing you could honestly tell a future spouse: “This made me better at loving you.”

GOAL 3 • WHY DOES GOD CARE SO MUCH ABOUT MARRIAGE?

MARRIAGE IS BIGGER THAN MARRIAGE.

It is a picture of Jesus’ love for His Church.

Ephesians 5:25 was used to connect marriage to the way Jesus loves: sacrificially. Marriage is not only about attraction, romance, or finally finding “your person.” It is meant to display a kind of love that gives, serves, stays faithful, and does not disappear the moment emotions change.

Pastor Mikey used his own marriage to explain this: there are days when feelings are not intense or when spouses annoy each other, but covenant love is deeper than a mood. That became a picture of the way Jesus continues to love us even when we are inconsistent.

THE FORMATION PRINCIPLE

EVERY YES IS FORMING YOU.

The way you practice love now matters because repeated choices make the next choice easier.

One of the strongest warnings in the message was the lie: “I’ll have my fun now, and when I get older I’ll get serious.” The response was that we are building the foundation now. Patterns of secrecy, lust, selfishness, faithfulness, self-control, honesty, and sacrifice do not appear out of nowhere later; they are practiced over time.

A POSSIBLE SLIPPERY SLOPE

1	BROKEN EXAMPLE “I have only seen marriage done badly.”
2	MARRIAGE FEELS LESS WORTH WANTING “Why would I want that?”
3	GOD’S DESIGN FEELS LESS IMPORTANT “If marriage does not matter, why should His boundaries matter?”
4	CULTURE STARTS DEFINING RELATIONSHIPS No commitment. Keep options open. Casual becomes normal.

WHEN MARRIAGE LOSES VALUE, THE BOUNDARIES AROUND IT CAN START TO FEEL POINTLESS.

GOAL 4 • SOME QUESTIONS TO WRESTLE WITH

These were the three questions students were asked to carry home. Do not rush through them. Sit with them, journal about them, pray through them, and talk with someone you trust.

1. WHAT PICTURE OF MARRIAGE AM I CARRYING - AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Was it shaped mostly by God's design, or by fighting, divorce, cheating, bad examples, media, and what I have seen around me?

2. NAME ONE WAY PORN HELPS YOUR FUTURE MARRIAGE.

What could you honestly tell a future spouse and say, "This made me better at loving you"? If you cannot name one benefit, why keep protecting something that trains you away from the love you say you want?

3. IF NOTHING CHANGED, WHAT WOULD YOU BRING INTO YOUR FUTURE MARRIAGE?

What habits, thoughts, expectations, struggles, strengths, and patterns are you carrying right now? Are you okay with that?

THE HOPE AT THE END OF THE MESSAGE

The message did not end with shame. It ended with a testimony: a broken family history does not have to become your future. "You don't have to continue the cycle. You can write it anew." Marriage is not perfect and it can be hard, but it is still worth wanting when it is understood and lived through God's design.

IS MARRIAGE STILL WORTH WANTING? YES.

Not because people always get it right - but because God's design is still good.

BIBLE STUDY + SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use these questions in a YTH group, family Bible study, accountability conversation, or personal journal. Leaders: create space for honest answers without forcing anyone to disclose private sexual details.

1. What words or emotions come to mind when you hear the word “marriage”? Why?

2. What is the difference between judging marriage by God’s design and judging it by broken examples?

3. Read Genesis 2:18 and 2:24. What do these verses teach about companionship, unity, and God’s intention?

4. Which contrast from “what God designed vs. what we turned it into” stood out to you most? Why?

5. Why is “we know porn is bad” a weaker question than “what is porn training me to want”?

6. How can pornography train novelty, fantasy, and taking instead of faithfulness, reality, and giving?

7. Read Ephesians 5:25. What does Jesus-shaped love look like in practice?

8. What do you think “every yes is forming you” means? Give a non-sexual example too.

9. Why can the mindset “I’ll get serious later” be dangerous?

10. What family pattern, cultural message, or personal habit would you want God to help you rewrite?

GROUP PRAYER PROMPTS

- Ask God to heal distorted or fearful views of marriage.
- Ask God to expose habits that are training your heart away from faithful love.
- Ask for courage to seek forgiveness, accountability, and freedom where needed.
- Pray that your generation would build healthier homes and break harmful cycles.

PARENT + GUARDIAN CONVERSATION GUIDE

This section is designed to help parents continue the conversation at home. The goal is not to interrogate your student or force a confession. The goal is to understand what is shaping them and to help them process marriage, sexuality, purity, and faith with honesty and grace.

WHAT YOUR STUDENT HEARD

- Marriage can look frightening when the examples around us have been painful.
- God's design should define marriage more than the failures they have witnessed.
- Pornography can shape expectations about people, sex, intimacy, and commitment.
- Marriage is meant to point to Jesus-shaped, sacrificial love.
- Choices made now can form habits and expectations students carry into adulthood.
- Students do not have to repeat the unhealthy patterns they grew up around.

QUESTIONS PARENTS CAN ASK

- When you think about marriage, what is the first picture that comes to mind?
- What examples - good or bad - do you think have shaped that picture most?
- Was there anything in the message that made you uncomfortable, confused, or curious?
- Which part of God's design for marriage sounded most different from what you see in culture?
- Why do you think porn and sexualized media can change the way someone sees real people?
- What do you think Pastor Mikey meant by "every yes is forming you"?
- If you could build a future family differently from what you have seen, what would you want to be different?
- How can I pray for you or support you without making you feel pressured to tell me everything?

A HEALTHY PARENT POSTURE

LEAD WITH CURIOSITY

Ask before correcting. Listen for what your student actually believes, fears, or has experienced.

KEEP GRACE IN THE ROOM

The message emphasized redemption and forgiveness. Make home a place where honesty is safer than hiding.

MODEL THE MESSAGE

Students are watching how adults handle apology, commitment, conflict, faithfulness, and forgiveness.

PRAY SPECIFICALLY

Pray for wisdom, purity, healthy future relationships, healing from family pain, and courage to choose God's way.

FLASHCARDS • CUT, FOLD, OR SCREENSHOT

Use these for quick review. Read the front, answer out loud, then check the back.

FRONT

What was the big question of Week 2?

BACK

Is marriage still worth wanting?

FRONT

What did the message say about God's design?

BACK

Marriage was God's idea from the beginning; broken people brought brokenness into it.

FRONT

Genesis 2:18

BACK

"It is not good for the man to be alone."

FRONT

Genesis 2:24

BACK

A man leaves father and mother, is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

FRONT

What does a bad marriage prove?

BACK

Not that marriage is bad - it shows what sin can do to something good.

FRONT

What was the main porn statement?

BACK

Porn trains us for the opposite of marriage.

FRONT

Porn: novelty | Marriage: _____

BACK

Faithfulness / choosing one person.

FRONT

Porn: take | Marriage: _____

BACK

Give of yourself / serve.

FRONT

Porn: fantasy | Marriage: _____

BACK

A real person with real feelings and needs.

FRONT

Ephesians 5:25

BACK

Love your spouse with the sacrificial pattern of Christ's love for the Church.

FRONT

What does "every yes is forming you" mean?

BACK

Repeated choices build patterns, expectations, and habits that can follow us into the future.

FRONT

Can your family history be rewritten?

BACK

Yes. You do not have to continue the cycle; with God, you can build something different.

WEEK 2 • TAKE IT WITH YOU

THREE SENTENCES TO REMEMBER

1. Marriage is still worth wanting.

2. Porn trains us for the opposite of marriage.

3. Every yes is forming you.

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

- Re-read Genesis 2:18, Genesis 2:24, and Ephesians 5:25.
- Answer the three “Questions to Wrestle With” honestly in a journal or with someone you trust.
- Pay attention to the messages you consume about sex, dating, commitment, and marriage.
- Identify one “yes” in your life that is forming you in the wrong direction, and bring it to God.
- If you need help with pornography, sexual sin, family pain, or an unhealthy relationship, talk to a trusted parent, pastor, leader, or mature Christian who can walk with you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, help me see marriage, love, sex, and relationships through Your design instead of only through what I have seen around me. Heal the places where broken examples have shaped me. Show me what my habits are training me to want. Forgive me where I have sinned, give me strength to change, and help every yes in my life move me closer to You. Teach me to love people with honesty, faithfulness, sacrifice, and grace. Help me build a different story where a different story needs to be written. Amen.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CONTINUE THE CYCLE.

God redeems. God forgives. You can write something new.