

RESURRECT

TIME TO RESURRECT YOUR MARRIAGE

Justin and Trisha Davis – March 13, 2016

1. Open in prayer: "Dear God, thank You that You're a God who is passionate about resurrecting things—our hearts, our relationships, and our marriages. May our relationship with You transform how we see ourselves and how we see others through Your overwhelming love. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

2. Big Dreams

Trisha said, "We all dream big dreams but when we step into those dreams, we realize they often don't unfold the way we think they should. We look to milestones and achievements, thinking that if we follow the "formula" and love God, there will be no struggle."

- How have you responded when your dreams and your reality don't unfold the way you think they should? Parenthood? Marriage? Job? Your relationship with God?

3. The Gap

Justin and Trisha said, "There was a gap between the marriage we had and the marriage we thought we should have."

- a. Do you ever say to yourself, "If I can just (fill in the blank), then my life would be good?"
- b. Do you ever find yourself just surviving, instead of thriving?
- c. Do you find yourself doing things for God instead of being in the presence of God?

4. Read Hebrews 12:10-13.

- a. How have some moments of discipline looked in your life?
- b. What have some of the harvests of righteousness and peace looked like in your life?
- c. Feel free to discuss any further thoughts regarding this passage.

5. Brokenness Leads to Resurrection

Justin said that a cornerstone of resurrecting their marriage was when a counselor told him that she could help a person who was broken, but she couldn't help a person with a hard heart (James 4:6).

- a. What is the difference?
- b. Discuss the difference between behavior modification and heart transformation.

6. True Identity

Trisha shared that through the brokenness of their marriage, she lost the only identity she had known as an adult but realized her true identity is in being a child of God!

- a. How is Trisha's recognition of her identity a reflection of TC's vision of Upward, Inward, Outward?
- b. Read Hebrews 13:8.
- c. How do these truths speak to you in your own life?

7. Ordinary is defeated when we tell the truth.

They shared that intimacy is to be fully known. At TC we say, "into me you see" (intimacy).

A. To unpack this, discuss some of the following statements and share if you've experienced any of these or how these could touch your own life:

- a. "If we want to be fully loved, we need to be fully known."
- b. "Unconfessed sin leads to repeated behavior."
- c. "We compromise truth and relationships out of fear of not being loved."
- d. "When we compromise truth, we put a lid on the intimacy of that relationship."
- e. "Withholding truth will never allow us to be who we were created to be."

8. Ordinary is defeated when we choose to forgive.

A. Read Ephesians 4:32.

B. Discuss some of the following statements and share if you've experienced any of these or how these could touch your own life:

a. "Short-term misery for long-term freedom is always a trade worth making."

b. "Choosing brokenness over bitterness is an amazing gift of surrender."

c. "When you choose to forgive someone, the person doesn't win. Christ wins and you walk in the freedom He's given you."

e. "Forgiveness resurrects what bitterness tries to kill."

Soul-tattoo: Be a truth teller and choose to forgive in your relationships with God, yourself, and others.