

VIBRANT UNION LESSON 5

Vision Alignment *Building Your Legacy Together*

ICE BREAKER (5 minutes)

Instructions: Give each couple a piece of paper and ask them to work together to answer this question:

"If someone made a movie about your marriage 20 years from now, what would you want the movie poster tagline to say? Create a movie title and tagline that represents the legacy you want to build together."

Examples: "The Johnsons: A Love That Changed Everything" or "Together We Rise: The Smith Family Story"

Give them 3 minutes to create their movie poster concept, then have a few couples share their titles and taglines with the group.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE: Habakkuk 2:2-3

"Then the Lord replied: 'Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.'"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Many marriages would be better if the husband and wife clearly understood that they are on the same side." - Zig Ziglar

OPENING COMMENTS (3-5 minutes)

Hey everyone! Welcome to week five—we are in the home stretch now! Can I just say how proud I am of you for sticking with this journey? You've been showing up, doing the work, and investing in something that's going to pay dividends for the rest of your lives.

How did your conflict transformation experiments go this week? I'm hoping some of you discovered that when you approach disagreements as teammates trying to solve a problem instead of enemies trying to win a battle, some pretty amazing breakthroughs started happening.

Tonight, we're diving into what I believe separates good marriages from absolutely legendary ones: shared vision. Now, before you tune out thinking this sounds too much like a business seminar, stick with me because this is actually the secret sauce that turns ordinary couples into unstoppable teams.

Here's what I've noticed: couples who just react to life as it happens will always struggle to build something meaningful together. But couples who have a clear, compelling vision of where they're going and what they're building—these couples don't just survive life's challenges, they use them as stepping stones to something extraordinary.

Vision is what pulls you forward when emotions want to drag you backward. Vision is what helps you make tough decisions because you know what you're working toward. Vision is what transforms your marriage from a collection of shared experiences into a purposeful partnership that leaves a lasting legacy.

Tonight, we're going to help you discover your unique vision as a couple and give you the tools to turn your dreams into your reality. Ready to stop drifting and start building something incredible together? Because this is where the magic happens!

THE STRUGGLE (12-15 minutes)

Alright, let's talk about one of the biggest relationship killers that nobody sees coming: vision-less marriage. Now, before you tune out thinking this sounds too "corporate retreat" for your taste, stick with me because this is actually the difference between couples who build something amazing together and couples who just... exist together.

Picture this scenario that's playing out in millions of homes: A couple falls in love, gets married, and starts making life decisions based on whatever seems logical at the moment. They buy a house because "that's what married people do." They have kids because "it's time." He takes a promotion that requires 60-hour weeks because it pays more. She goes back to work because they need the income, even though she'd rather be home. They join the PTA, coach little league, volunteer at church, and say yes to family gatherings without ever asking one crucial question: "Is this moving us toward the life we actually want to build together?"

Fast forward five years, and they're living a life that neither of them actually chose. They're busy, productive, and checking all the cultural boxes for "successful marriage," but they feel empty and disconnected because they're not working toward anything meaningful together.

Sound familiar? Welcome to what I call "drift marriage"—the most common and most tragic pattern I see in couples today.

Here's what drift marriage looks like in real life:

You're busy but not fulfilled.

Your calendar is packed, but you couldn't tell someone what you're actually building together as a couple. You're activity-rich but purpose-poor, moving fast but going nowhere specific.

One husband told me, "We're always running somewhere—soccer practice, work meetings, family gatherings, church events. But if you asked me what we're building as a family or where we're heading in five years, I honestly couldn't tell you."

You make decisions by default instead of design.

Without clear vision, you choose based on what's urgent rather than what's important, what's convenient rather than what aligns with your values, what others expect rather than what you actually want. You're reactive instead of proactive, responding to life instead of creating it.

Your individual dreams start competing instead of complementing.

When couples don't have shared vision, their personal aspirations begin to work against each other. His career goals conflict with her family priorities. Her dreams require sacrifices he's not willing to make. Instead of being teammates working toward common goals, you become competitors for limited time and resources.

You think short-term instead of legacy.

Vision-less couples focus almost exclusively on immediate needs and wants. They make financial decisions based on current desires, choose entertainment over investment, comfort over growth, and easy over meaningful. They're living for today with no thought about tomorrow.

You leave a legacy by accident instead of intention.

Maybe the most tragic part: these couples influence their kids, their community, and their world, but without any intentionality. They pass on values by default rather than by design, create impact by accident rather than on purpose.

Why Vision Dies in Marriage (And It's Not What You Think):

The Complexity Trap:

Life becomes so complex with competing demands that couples stop thinking beyond the next week or month. They get trapped in maintenance mode, managing immediate needs but never stepping back to ask bigger questions about direction and purpose.

The Assumption Mistake:

Many couples assume they want the same things without ever actually discussing their dreams and goals. They discover years later that they've been working toward completely different visions of success, happiness, and family life.

The Fear Factor:

Creating shared vision requires vulnerability because it means sharing your deepest dreams and biggest fears. Many couples avoid these conversations because they're afraid their spouse won't share their dreams or, worse, will crush them.

The Cultural Script:

Our culture provides a default life plan—get educated, get married, buy a house, have kids, climb the career ladder, retire, die. Many couples follow this script without ever asking if it aligns with their unique calling and purpose.

The Devastating Results of Vision-Less Living:

When couples lack shared vision, everything starts falling apart:

- They drift apart emotionally because they're not working toward common goals
- They make decisions that conflict with each other's unstated dreams
- They feel unfulfilled even when they achieve external success
- They raise kids without clear family identity or purpose
- They miss opportunities to make meaningful impact together
- They reach midlife wondering what they've actually accomplished as a team

I've counseled couples who achieved everything our culture defines as success—beautiful homes, thriving careers, well-behaved kids, financial security—but felt empty and disconnected because none of it was chosen intentionally or connected to a larger purpose.

Here's what breaks my heart: these couples aren't failing because they don't love each other. They're failing because they're pouring their love into a bucket with no bottom—a relationship without direction, purpose, or shared dreams to pull them forward together.

THE REMEDY (15-18 minutes)

Let me take you back to one of my favorite verses in **Habakkuk 2:2-3**, where God tells the prophet: **"Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it."** This isn't just about ancient prophecy—this is about the power of written, clear, compelling vision that people can understand and pursue together!

Notice three crucial elements: the vision must be written down, it must be clear, and it must be compelling enough that people will **"run with it."** This is exactly what your marriage needs—a written, clear, compelling vision that both of you can sprint toward together.

When God designed marriage, He didn't intend for you to just drift through life managing logistics. He created marriage to be a powerful partnership that accomplishes purposes neither of you could achieve alone. But that only happens when you get intentional about where you're going together.

The Three Components of Marriage Vision That Changes Everything:

Component 1: Your Legacy Statement - What You Want to Be Remembered For

This answers the question: "When we're gone, what do we want people to say our marriage stood for?" It's about the impact you want to have on your kids, your community, and your world. It's the difference you want your marriage to make in the lives of others.

Component 2: Your Values Alignment - Your Non-Negotiable Principles

These are the core beliefs that will guide your decisions. When opportunities arise or difficult choices must be made, your shared values provide the filter for decision-making. They're your "True North" that keeps you heading in the right direction.

Component 3: Your Destiny Dreams - Your Specific Goals and Aspirations

These are the concrete expressions of your abstract values and legacy desires. They're specific goals you want to accomplish together—personally, professionally, relationally, spiritually, and financially.

The Vision Development Game Plan:

Step 1: Individual Discovery (Do This Before You Come Together)

Before you can create shared vision, each spouse needs to get clear about their own dreams, values, and calling. Ask yourself these questions:

- What makes me come alive and energized?
- What do I want to be remembered for when I'm gone?
- What are my deepest values and non-negotiables?
- What dreams have I put on hold that still matter to me?
- How do I want to impact the world around me?

Step 2: Shared Exploration (Now Come Together Without Judgment)

Share your individual discoveries without trying to immediately solve differences or make everything align. The goal is understanding, not agreement yet. Ask each other:

- "What are your biggest dreams for our marriage and family?"
- "What kind of legacy do you want us to leave together?"
- "What values are most important to you in how we live?"
- "How do you want our family to be different from others?"
- "What would you attempt if you knew we couldn't fail?"

Step 3: Vision Integration (Find the Magic in the Overlap)

Look for where your individual dreams intersect and find creative ways to integrate differences. This isn't about compromise where everyone loses something—it's about synergy where your combined vision becomes bigger and better than either individual dream.

Step 4: Vision Documentation (Write It Down and Make It Clear)

Put your shared vision in writing using clear, compelling language. Make it specific enough to guide decisions but flexible enough to evolve as you grow together.

The Five Essential Areas of Marriage Vision:

Area 1: Relational Vision - What Kind of Marriage Do We Want?

- How do we want to treat each other daily?
- What kind of intimacy and connection do we want to maintain?

- How do we want to handle conflict and challenges together?
- What kind of fun and adventure do we want to prioritize?

Area 2: Family Vision - What Kind of Family Culture Do We Want?

- What values do we want to instill in our children?
- What kind of family traditions and memories do we want to create?
- How do we want to celebrate, serve, and grow together?
- What do we want people to experience when they're in our home?

Area 3: Financial Vision - How Do We Want Money to Serve Our Dreams?

- What does financial success look like for us specifically?
- How do we want to earn, save, spend, and give?
- What financial goals support our other values and dreams?
- How do we want money to enhance our relationships, not control them?

Area 4: Impact Vision - How Do We Want to Make a Difference?

- How do we want to serve God and others together?
- What kind of difference do we want to make in our community?
- How do we want to use our gifts and resources to help others?
- What kind of example do we want to set for other couples?

Area 5: Adventure Vision - How Do We Want to Keep Growing?

- What experiences do we want to have together?
- How do we want to continue growing individually and as a couple?
- What new skills, knowledge, or adventures do we want to pursue?
- What would make us excited to wake up together for the next 20 years?

Living Your Vision Daily:

The Vision Filter: Before making any significant decision, ask together: "Does this move us toward our vision or away from it?" This one question will revolutionize your decision-making.

Monthly Vision Check-Ins: Spend 30 minutes each month reviewing your progress, celebrating victories, and adjusting strategies. Vision without regular review becomes forgotten good intentions.

Annual Vision Retreats: Take extended time each year to assess, refine, and update your vision as you grow and change together. Your vision should evolve as you do.

Daily Vision Reminders: Post your vision statement somewhere visible and refer to it regularly. Let your shared dreams shape your daily choices.

CONCLUSION (3-5 minutes)

Here's what I need you to understand: vision isn't a luxury for marriages—it's absolutely essential for survival and thriving. Without vision, couples don't just miss out on extraordinary—they slowly drift toward ordinary, and ordinary eventually becomes empty.

But when couples get clear about where they're going together, something absolutely magical happens. Suddenly, your daily choices have meaning because they're connected to your larger purpose. Your sacrifices make sense because you know what you're building together. Your conflicts become easier to resolve because you both know what you're fighting FOR, not just what you're fighting about.

Vision transforms your marriage from a collection of shared experiences into a purposeful partnership. It turns your family from a group of people sharing an address into a team with a mission. It changes your legacy from accidental to intentional.

I've seen couples completely transform their marriages simply by getting clear about where they're going together. I've watched families change their entire trajectory because they decided to be proactive about their future instead of just reactive to their circumstances.

Your marriage has the potential to be a force for good in this world. Your family can leave a legacy that impacts generations. Your partnership can accomplish things that neither of you could achieve alone. But none of this will happen by accident—it requires vision, intentionality, and the courage to dream big together.

Here's the question that's going to haunt you in the best possible way: Twenty years from now, are you going to look back with gratitude because you built something beautiful together, or are you going to look back with regret because you let life happen TO you instead of making life happen FOR you?

The choice is yours, and you make it starting tonight. Don't let your marriage drift. Don't settle for good when extraordinary is available. Don't leave your legacy to chance when you can create it by design.

Your future is waiting. Your legacy is calling. Your vision is ready to be born. All it takes is the courage to dream together and the commitment to make those dreams reality.

So what do you say? Ready to stop drifting and start building something absolutely incredible together? Because the next week is going to be all about turning your dreams into your reality!

COUPLES COMMITMENT (5 minutes)

Instructions: Have couples stand and face each other, holding hands. Read this commitment aloud, having them repeat after you phrase by phrase:

Weekly Commitment Declaration:

"[Spouse's name], this week I commit to you:

I will dream big dreams with you about our future together.

I will align my individual goals with our shared vision.

I will make decisions that move us toward our dreams, not away from them.

I will prioritize our long-term legacy over short-term comfort.

I will celebrate our progress and encourage you in our journey.

I will remember that we're building something beautiful together.

Our best days are ahead of us, and I'm excited to create them with you."

Have couples seal their commitment with a hug and brief prayer together.

TAKE-HOME TOOLS:

1. **Vision Development Worksheet:** Step-by-step guide for creating your written marriage vision statement
2. **Monthly Vision Review Questions:** Template for assessing progress toward your shared goals

3. **Decision-Making Filter:** Quick reference card for evaluating choices through your vision
4. **Legacy Planning Starter Kit:** Tools for thinking about the long-term impact you want to make together