

# VERTICAL Marriage

WEEK FIVE  
All IN

## Welcome Back!

**We all made it to Week 5! Well done!**

Last week we talked about sex. Who knew the Bible had so much to say about it, right? We learned the differences between men and women in this area. Hopefully, you are making progress in your quest to have a vertical marriage.

This week we're tying things up by learning what it means to be "all in". Understanding "all in" is easy, right? Not so fast! Today we are going to connect being "all in" with going vertical first. What does that mean?

**Sit back and buckle up. Let's land this plane together.**

*Flip* to the next page and let's get started!

# Ice Breaker

**Let's start by playing one last game to kick things off.**

You've probably played "Never Have I Ever...."

Have everyone hold up ten fingers. The person in the room with the craziest socks on starts by completing the sentence "Never have I ever..." (come up with something you have never done that you think others in the room potentially have done). Anyone who **has** done the activity mentioned in the "Never have I ever...." statement, puts one finger down. Play moves clockwise around the room. As players put down all their fingers, they are eliminated from the game. The winner of the game is the last remaining player with a finger raised.

## Answer

Have you ever played the game "Never have I ever..." with your marriage? Think back to the early days when marriage seemed "easy". Never have I ever looked at my husband with resentment. Never have I ever said hurtful things to my wife. But what about now? How would you finish this sentence about your marriage today? "Never have I ever...."



God has an amazing plan for your marriage and relationships.....

all God needs is for you to surrender **ALL IN!**

**Dave & Ann Wilson**



*Watch* the video message  
then *flip* to the next page  
for discussion questions



# Discuss

1. There are both tough times in life's circumstances and tough times in marriage itself. Sometimes we desperately want to "check out" rather than stay in the difficult situation. Reflect on a time when you chose to check out. How did you feel as a result? Did you ultimately find peace in avoiding the tough situation? Why or why not?
2. **Read Colossians 3:23-24 and discuss.**

God calls us to be "all in" whatever we do, including creating and maintaining a healthy marriage.

  - When we see what doing something for God means — that it's for our benefit — it changes everything. It motivates our obedience because we see that doing something for the Lord means finding joy in Him. How does this change your attitude about being "all in"?
  - How can you go "all in" in your marriage every day?
3. Going "all in" for your marriage comes with risk and pain, but God offers to be with us in the middle of this step of faith. Inviting God into your marriage and moving your perspective to a vertical relationship moves you towards surrendering to God.
  - What holds you back from surrendering your full self to Jesus?
  - What do you have to gain by surrendering your full self to Jesus?
  - What could your marriage gain by surrendering your full self to Jesus?
4. God has an amazing plan for our marriages, but when we are not filled by Jesus, we try to get from each other what only God can give us. We make our spouse "god," and they disappoint us. It is in this frustration and pain that we often cry out to God.
  - Is God using something in your marriage right now to call you closer to Him? You don't have to answer out loud. But answer this: Share one way you can surrender yourself and your marriage to Jesus right now.
5. As you reflect on today's topic of being "all in", what is your biggest takeaway or realization? Why?

# Challenge

Go home and discuss these statements with your spouse. Have fun with the dialogue. Enjoy the discovery. Listen to your hearts. Pray together. Ask God to reveal His power.

Appreciate WHAT IS.

Imagine WHAT COULD BE.

Design WHAT SHOULD BE.

Create WHAT WILL BE.

## Read More

For those of you reading along with the book *Vertical Marriage* by Dave and Ann Wilson, **Part Four: Living Vertical** (chapters 16-17) compliments this week.

