



A MARRIAGE SAVED, A LIFE TRANSFORMED

with Steven Pemberton

▶ FOCUS VERSE

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9

▶ DISCUSSION

1. **Have you ever experienced a time in your life when you were doing great in terms of financial security, career accomplishments, and/or public reputation, but still felt empty and unfulfilled? (See *Ecclesiastes 3:11.*)**
 - a. Looking back, what do you think was the most important thing missing?
 - b. Do you think your actions—or inaction—played any part in that thing being absent?

2. **What was your reaction to Steven's story about realizing his wife's infidelity?**
 - a. What about that story did you identify with personally?
 - b. What surprised or shocked you?
 - c. Do you think you could be as forgiving in that situation as Steven was? (See *Colossians 3:13.*)



- 3. Do you think you've ever heard or felt God calling upon you to make a significant change in your life? (See Revelation 3:20.)**
- a. What do you think He was asking you to do, and did you act on it?
 - b. Why or why not?
- 4. Think of the ways in which you and your spouse or girlfriend express or explore your faith. How are the two of you similar in that regard, and how are you different? (See 2 Corinthians 6:14.)**
- 5. Discuss Steven's statement that "you are the sum of the five people you spend the most time with." (See Psalm 1.)**
- a. Who are those five people for you, and how are their traits, lifestyles, and values reflected in your own?
 - b. Do you worry that any of that might be unhealthy in some way, and if so, how could you go about changing it?
- 6. When you think about your struggles or failings, have you ever thought that you're alone and that no one else is guilty of the same sins or mistakes you've committed? (See Hebrews 4:14-16.)**
- a. How could that feeling of isolation contribute to you making the same mistakes over and over again?
 - b. Do you think that talking about them openly with other men might change that?
- 7. Think back on a specific mistake you've made that caused you to feel shame or embarrassment.**
- a. How have you changed since then?
 - b. Does reflecting on that growth lessen your feeling of shame?
 - c. Why or why not?

