



Six Steps to Writing Your Marriage Vision

Life is unpredictable and full of ups and downs. Therefore, it's important to have something that is foundational that will guide you through rough patches and keep you on target during the great times as well. I can't think of a better way for engaged or newlywed couples to begin their marital journey than to develop a solid vision for their marriage.

The steps below will assist you in capturing a clear vision of your marriage. These steps will then put you on the path to eventually preparing and crafting your Marriage Proclamation and Goals, which you will complete at the end of the course. The vision for your marriage should be grounded in shared core values and principles such as service, honesty, kindness, generosity, forgiveness, commitment, safe communication, or faith.

You will start this process individually and then will come back together to share your ideas and visions with your partner. After you have completed this course, you will continue this process and eventually come to a solid, cohesive agreement about your Marriage Vision, Proclamation, and Goals.

To get started on your Marriage Vision, follow the steps below:

Step 1: Set Aside Time

Be sure begin this process in a place where and at a time when there will be no distractions. Remember, you will do the first four steps by yourself. I would suggest that you turn off your phone or at least silence it and turn it over so you will not be distracted by notifications. You are crafting what you want your marriage to look like. You don't want to go into this activity carelessly with a lot of potential interruptions.

Step 2: Seek the Lord's Guidance

Begin this activity with prayer so that you are in tune with what your Father in Heaven wants for your marriage.

Step 3: Vision Brainstorm

Begin by writing down some initial thoughts. This can be done by following the prompts in the My Marriage Vision Brainstorm exercise below. You do not have to respond to each prompt. These are suggestions to help you gain some traction. Some of the prompts may seem redundant, but I want to help you think of similar points from different angles. If one prompt seems too redundant, skip it and go to the next one. Try to keep your responses to only 1-2 sentences. Remember to be honest, open, and vulnerable as you complete this exercise. Be careful not to just write down ideas that you think your partner will want you to include. However, hopefully your partner motivates you to want to be a better person, so you might include some thoughts and ideas that you personally want to improve on and eventually include as part of your Marriage Proclamation and Goals. Essentially, these responses should be genuine and from your heart. Finally, I would suggest that you spend no more than three minutes on each prompt. If you get stuck on one of the prompts, no worries; just move on to the next one and come back to it when you are done.

My Marriage Vision Brainstorm

What are some aspects of my relationship with my partner that I really like and see as positive?

What are some areas of my relationship with my partner that I think we could improve on?

When I think of my friends' marriages or members of my family and their marriages, what are some aspects of their relationship that I would like to emulate?

What are some basic core principles and values that I think should guide my marriage?

What are some personal relationship strengths that I bring to this marriage?

What are some personal relationship strengths that my partner brings to this marriage?

What do I consider to be the top three most important aspects of a satisfying and happy marriage?

What role does my personal emotional and mental health play in my marriage to my partner?

What kind of marriage do I believe the Lord wants my partner and me to have?

A year after our wedding, what would I like my marriage to look like?

Ten years from now, what would I like my marriage to look like?

Twenty-five years from now, what would I like my marriage to look like?

Step 4: Take a Break and Review Your Vision

Now that you have written a general idea of your marital vision, take a break and let your mind rest from this mental activity and then come back in a bit with fresh eyes. After your break, review your responses. As you review your responses, you might notice some more ideas you want to change, take out, or add.

Step 5: Discuss and Rewrite Your Vision

With your own thoughts and ideas in hand, now come back with your partner and discuss your answers. I suggest that you decide how long you will discuss this. For example, you might decide to spend 30 minutes today and maybe 30 minutes tomorrow. As you discuss, be sure to put down some ideas that you both agree on. This will help you when it comes time to write up your Marriage Proclamation and Goals at the end of the course.

Step 6: Finish the Course

Now that you have discussed your overall vision for your marriage, it is time to go through the course together. As you go through the course, there will be concepts, ideas, points, and principles will stand out to you that you will likely want to include in your final draft of your Marriage Proclamation and Goals. After you have completed all of the modules in this course, you will be instructed to refine your Marriage Vision and begin crafting your Marriage Proclamation and Goals.