

Event Report

On Monday 9th November at 8pm 42 couples settled down to listen to Junior and Allison's story over Zoom. And that is essentially what Couples Talk is about. One couple shares their story as they are interviewed by our hosts, and we get to hear the nitty-gritty of their successes, failures and lessons learned in their relationship from the comfort of our sofas.

This was our seventh Couples Talk, an initiative from Family Life since the start of lockdown, and the story that Junior and Allison shared was honest, vulnerable, relatable, but above all, hopeful. Junior and Allison talked about the challenges of being married after divorce and the baggage they brought into their new marriage which inevitably created conflict. This conflict brought them to a point of despair, feeling there was nowhere else to go except to part. But they also talked about their decision to commit, to recognise their love for each other and the need to take responsibility for the changes they needed to make in themselves. It was ultimately their christian faith which kept them on the path of reconciliation and healing. Junior recalls reading Jesus's words in Matthew 8:26 "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" which galvanized his conviction to trust God and get help. They committed to taking one day at a time, to make the changes in themselves and to trust God to provide them with the strength, guidance, forgiveness and reconciliation they needed to rebuild their marriage. We got to witness the fruit of that endeavor three years further along that path. What struck me was the certainty they have today that they made the right decision then. Although they had been 'walking in the valley of despair' as Allison put it, they clung to hope, and theirs is ultimately that; a story of hope.

And who doesn't need a bit of hope at the moment? Why not join us next month when Bill and Lynda will be chatting about some of the challenges they have faced particularly around Christmas-time. As always, you'll get some practical tips and tools to implement in your own relationship and a hear message which might just give you a lasting hope.