

before you leave...



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BEFORE YOU LEAVE: YOUR MARRIAGE

WHY ARE PEOPLE LEAVING THEIR MARRIAGES?

MARRIAGE IS GOD'S IDEA

MARK 10:6-9

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE?

CREATE A LOYAL _____ BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN - GENESIS 2:24

DESIGN COMMITTED SEXUAL EXPRESSION FOR COUPLES TO _____ - GENESIS 2:24-25

ESTABLISH THE _____ FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN - MALACHI 2:15

UNDERSTAND OUR GENDER _____ CONTRASTED TO THE OPPOSITE SEX - GENESIS 1:27

_____ CHRIST'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH - EPHESIANS 5:25-27

MARRIED PEOPLE OF PURPOSE

CORE VALUE 1: *HAVE SERIOUS FUN*

THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOUR MARRIAGE IS TO _____ IT.

PSALM 126:2

CORE VALUE 2: *RESPECT AND LOVE*

OUR SPOUSE DOESN'T BRING OUT THE WORST IN US - THEY REVEAL THE _____ IN US.

EPHESIANS 4:22, EPHESIANS 5:25-27, EPHESIANS 5:33

CORE VALUE 3: LOVE GOD FIRST

LOVING GOD IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL LIFE _____ YOUR MARRIED LIFE.

MARK 12:30

CORE VALUE 4: PRACTICE YOUR PROMISE

MARRIAGE IS NOT ABOUT THE BIG DAY BUT THE _____ DAY.

MARK 10:9

THE QUESTION TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU LEAVE

DOES GOD WANT YOU TO FIGHT *IN* YOUR MARRIAGE OR *FOR* YOUR MARRIAGE?

HOW TO FIGHT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

THE ENEMY DISTRACTS US WITH _____.

1 PETER 5:8

JESUS _____ IN YOU - AND YOUR MARRIAGE.

ROMANS 8:31

_____ YOUR MARRIAGE.

COLOSSIANS 3:13-15

OWN YOUR OWN _____.

ROMANS 3:23

_____ RATHER THAN CRITICIZE.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

FOCUS ON YOUR SPOUSE'S _____ RATHER THAN WEAKNESSES.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7 ESV

_____ FOR YOUR MARRIAGE AND THE MARRIAGES AROUND YOU.

EPHESIANS 6:18

TAKE ONE _____ STEP AFTER THE NEXT.

1 PETER 4:8

Fill in the blanks: Partnership, Enjoy, Firmest, Identity, Mirror, Enjoy, Brokenness, Impacts, Every, Discontentment, Believes, Feed, Imperfections, Encourage, Strengths, Pray, Faithful

The following questions are provided for your personal reflection and application and for you to discuss with your family, friends, and Life Group. If you are missing any Study Guides, they are available at the Connect Center or online with the sermon archives each week.

OPEN UP

When it comes to housework, what is the last job you would pick?

READ THIS

Philippians 2:1-11

ASK THIS

How well are you living out verses Phil 2:2-4 within the context of your family/marriage/roommates?

Jesus took on “the very nature of a servant” (v. 7). How often do you willingly take on this role in your home? Why?

What is Jesus’ reward for humbling himself (v. 9-10)? What would it look like for you to humble yourself in your relationship/s?

READ THIS

James 5:13-16

ASK THIS

What stands out to you about the purpose of prayer from reading this passage?

ASK THIS (continued)

What role does prayer have in healing, physically and relationally (v. 16)?

Do you regularly pray for your loved ones (spouse, parents, siblings, friends)? Why or why not?

READ THIS

Romans 15:1-3, Gal 5:13-15

ASK THIS

How can Romans 15:3 revitalize your commitment to encourage others, even when it's difficult?

What would happen to your relationships if you focused on building them up, instead of criticizing them?

Gal 5:13 says "serve one another in love." Why do you think serving "in love" is specified in that command? What does this teach us about what God values?

Are you doing well at loving your neighbor (spouse, friends, parents, siblings) "as yourself" (Gal 5:14)? Why or why not?

DO THIS

This week, challenge yourself to focus on building up the people around you, instead of criticizing, or complaining about them. Ask the Holy Spirit each morning to help you see the good in those around you - and speak it when you see it! When you find yourself feeling frustrated about something your spouse/family member/friend does, try taking it to God first, and pray for them. At the end of the week, journal or reflect on how you feel toward your loved one, God, and even yourself. Note if your behavior brought about differences in your loved one's behavior, too, but don't be discouraged if you don't see change yet. Focus on changing your heart's posture, and let God do the rest.