



FAMILYLIFE® presents
weekend to
remember®

prayer guide

Weekend to Remember®

Prayer Guide

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Weekend to Remember Prayer Guide
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INTRODUCTION

Praise the Lord! We praise God that you have been called to take “the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17b NIV) and pray for those attending the Weekend to Remember. You will need your Bible in order to pray effectively for these couples.

This Prayer Guide is filled with the Word of God for you to declare as you intercede for those attending this conference. When you pray Scripture for these couples, you are imparting the life and power of God. As you enter the world of intercession, you place yourselves on the front battle line for God. In order to combat spiritual attack, one **MUST** be prepared. Begin now by reading Ephesians 6:10-18 and by taking up the armor of God.¹

Each day you will be using the acrostic **PRAY**. You will begin each day or session (depending on how the prayer team is scheduled) with **Praising** God, **Repentance** from sin, **Asking** God anything according to His will, and **Yielding** yourself to all that God will speak to you. You may then use the specific message guides to target your prayers.²

Praise: Praise is acknowledging God for who He is. You may even choose to praise through song. Included in praise are prayers of thanksgiving for what He has done.³

Repentance: It is necessary to approach God in an attitude of repentance. None of us is without sin (1 Kings 8:46). “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9 NASB).

Asking: “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him” (1 John 5:14-15 NASB).

Yield yourself to God: Spend time quietly sitting at His feet and listening for His voice. He will guide and direct your prayers.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

—Psalm 100 (NIV)

*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.*

—Psalm 146:1-2,5-8 (ESV)

Additional praise Scriptures include Psalms 103, 145:1-7, 147:1-11, 148 149, and 150.

REPENTANCE AND CLEANSING

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

—Psalm 130:1-2,5 (ESV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

—Psalm 51:10 (ESV)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

—Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

- Is there anyone you have not forgiven?
- Did you fight with your spouse or a family member or anyone else today?
- Is your life self-controlled or God-controlled?

ASKING

The following subjects are general areas to “ask” God for each time you begin to pray.

INVITATION: Invite the Holy Spirit into the conference, the hotel, ballroom, guest rooms, hallways, elevators, couples, and hotel staff (John 14:25-26 and John 16:5-11). Ask the Spirit of Unity to be among all those attending and working (Psalm 133 and Ephesians 4:3-6).

SPEAKERS: Declare speaker-couple’s names. Pray that the speakers would be refreshed and filled with His Holy Spirit and anointing. Also pray that they will be sensitive when teaching and sharing life applications (Romans 12:1-21; Colossians 1:9-12a).

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power. ... This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.
(1 Corinthians 2:4-5,13 NIV)*

GOD’S PURPOSE: Pray that God’s purpose will be accomplished in each person attending. Pray that God will direct couples of His choice to be in attendance.

THE COUPLES: Pray that couples would ask the question, What does God have for us? Pray that they begin to investigate what God is saying to them through 1 John 1:7—to walk in the light of Jesus, so that we may have unbroken fellowship with Him and with one another. Pray that His kingdom will come to their hearts and to their homes! Pray for safety in traveling. Pray for peace and protection for children at home.

TEACHING TRUTHS: Pray that the teaching truths will be clear and that the Word of God will penetrate deep into their hearts. Pray confidently that it will accomplish the work that God intends and will not return void.

MAKING IT PERSONAL: Pray that each individual will approach these applications with integrity and honesty.

A prayer for yourself and those attending might look like this:

Lord, enable all of us to honor you by submitting to each other (Ephesians 5:21). Give us patience, faithfulness, and encouragement; and help us to live in complete harmony with the attitude of Christ toward each other (Romans 15:5). Keep us vigilant to guard against any separation of spirit between us.⁴

YIELDING

I trust you, Lord, from the bottom of my heart; I will not attempt to figure out everything on my own. I am listening for your voice in everything I do and everywhere I go; you’re the one who keeps me on track (Proverbs 3:5-6).

ATTITUDES (Philippians 2:2-5): Pray for those with a rebellious attitude—those who don’t want to be there—that the strongholds would be taken away (broken) and replaced with a willingness to listen. Pray that God’s Holy Spirit would be allowed to minister to their hearts throughout the conference. Pray that the deeds of the flesh will be broken and that the fruit of the Spirit will prevail (Galatians 5:16-26).

TRANSITION FROM THE WORLD TO LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD (1 Peter 5:6-7; Psalm 51:16-17): Pray that the men and women would be able to cast all of their cares and concerns unto the Lord (Matthew 6:25,33). Pray as they walk into the hotel that they will feel the peace of the Holy Spirit. Pray that hearts will be tender and eager to learn and apply the biblical principles to be presented.

COMMITMENT TO THE APPLICATION PROJECTS (Hebrews 13:17): Pray that couples will be committed to complete each **Application Project** before the next session.

UNDERSTANDING: Pray that the couples would understand the lessons and desire to know how to apply them to their lives. Pray for protection of their minds from distractions and from fleshly thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Pray: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17 NASB). Pray that they will have ears to hear the Word of God.

PRAYER GUIDE FOR EACH CONFERENCE MESSAGE

Friday Evening:

Message 1—Why Marriages Fail: Understand the five threats to marriage.

Main Teaching Truths

If couples are not intentionally moving toward oneness, these factors will cause their marriages to drift toward isolation:

Threat #1: Difficult adjustments

The result when couples fail to make necessary adjustments to move toward oneness, the result is isolation.

Threat #2: Our culture's pattern

The result when couples follow our culture's pattern for marriage, the result is isolation.

Threat #3: Inevitable difficulties

The result when couples fail to grasp God's perspective on difficulties and problems, the result is isolation.

Threat #4: Extramarital affairs

The result when couples escape to extramarital affairs, the result is isolation.

Threat #5: Selfishness

The result when husbands and wives are selfish, the result is isolation.

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way. (Isaiah 53:6a NASB)

Make It Personal Applications

- Circle the threat that has had the biggest impact on your marriage.
- Rate how much each threat has affected your marriage.
- Write down the challenges you have faced in your marriage.

Remarried or Blended Family Couples:

- Which of the five threats to oneness was the biggest issue in your previous marriage?
- Have any of these patterns continued in your current marriage?
- How are you contributing to the drift toward isolation in your marriage?

Highlights

- The goal of marriage is not isolation; it's oneness
- The path to oneness...leads to hope.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray for the couples who have not arrived—for peace and protection from the enemy. Pray against discouragement and for them to persevere through any obstacles the enemy has put in their way.
- Pray that the Lord will break down the walls in their hearts and that there will be much laughter.

A cheerful heart is good medicine. (Proverbs 17:22a NLT)

- Pray that each individual will not harden his/her heart to the Holy Spirit and will receive correction through the conference speaker's teaching.

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.
(Psalm 95:7b-8a NIV)

Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it. (Psalm 141:5a NIV)

- Pray that God would peel away the layers of deception and that each person would see themselves honestly.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13 NIV)

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
(Psalm 139:23-24 ESV)

- Pray for each couple to recognize and confess the threats affecting their marriage—adjustments, our culture's pattern, difficulties, extramarital affairs, and selfishness.
- Ask God to stir their hearts so that oneness would be the desire of their souls.

Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart."
(Matthew 12:25 NLT)

- Pray for an uprooting of each of the workings of the spirit of separation. Then pray for the planting or establishing the opposite spirit, which is the work or nature of Jesus.⁵

Spirit of Separation

Pride
Self-centeredness
Deception (idolatry)
No fear of God (rebellion, disobedience)
Control (manipulation)
Rejection
Accusation (judging, criticism)
Perversion of God-intended roles
Busyness
Lust (coveting)
Materialism (greed, worldliness)
Withdrawal
Anger

God's Spirit

Humility
Sacrifice
Truth
Fear of the Lord
Filling of the Spirit
Acceptance
Grace
Submission
Waiting on God
Holiness
Extravagant generosity
Trinity unity
Death to self

Message 2—Can We Talk? Our Communication Toolbox

Main Teaching Truth

Good communication requires that couples understand the barriers to communication, learn to listen well, and learn to express themselves well.

- There are a variety of factors that make communication difficult.
- How to listen well this weekend.
- How to express yourself well this weekend.

Make It Personal Applications

- Check the communication styles that best fit you. Put a box around the communication styles that best fit your spouse.
- Circle the one tip for listening well that you'd like to work on this weekend.
- Circle the one tip for expressing yourself well that you'd like to work on this weekend.

Highlight

- Good communication is an essential skill for getting the most out of this weekend.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray that the couples will be able to discern the barriers that keep them from being understood.

A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense.
(Proverbs 24:3 NLT)

- Pray that couples would move toward transparency in their communication.

- Pray that couples will accept their differences in communication styles and adjust to honor one another.

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10 ESV)

- Pray for the breaking of destructive communication patterns and the development of healthy patterns.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1 NIV)

Prayer Directives and Scripture for the **Application Project**: Married, Remarried and Blended Couples

- Pray for understanding of how the threats have caused isolation and for open communication about these during the application time.

Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? (Amos 3:3 NIV)

- Pray for honesty with one another and gentleness in their communication.

A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word! (Proverbs 15:23 NASB)

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29 ESV)

- Pray that the Lord would give them ears to hear each other.

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven ... a time to be silent, and a time to speak. (Ecclesiastes 3:1,7b NASB)

Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. (James 1:19b ESV)

- Pray against anger disrupting their communication.

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander and obscene talk from your mouth. Put on ... compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. (Colossians 3:8,12 ESV)

- They will be discussing their hopes for the weekend. Please pray that

- the Lord would bring hope to their hearts.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you.

(2 Thessalonians 2:16,17a NIV)

- there would be vulnerability in expressing their hope.
- they would dare to hope for His purposes for their marriages.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

Saturday Morning:

Message 3—Unlocking the Mystery of Marriage: God’s Purpose for Oneness

Main Teaching Truths

Marriage is more significant than you may have thought. Marriage was designed by God and is defined by God. Marriage is at the center of God’s purpose for mankind.

1. Purpose No. 1—Mirror God’s image.
2. Purpose No. 2—Mutually complete one another.
3. Purpose No. 3—Multiply a godly legacy.
4. God’s purposes for marriage are challenged by an opposing force.

Make It Personal Applications

- Identify three ways to pursue companionship with your spouse.

Highlights

- What if marriage is about more than just your happiness?
- Couples who mirror God’s image experience oneness in their marriage.
- Couples who pursue companionship with one another experience the blessing of oneness.
- Couples who value children as a gift from God can experience the blessing of a godly legacy.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray for each couple to get the right picture of a godly marriage and to understand that their marriage is a tool to express God’s glory to the world.

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:22-23 NIV)

- Pray that they will receive God’s purposes for marriage as truth and begin to walk out these purposes in their own marriage; reflecting God’s image, mutually completing each other, and transferring a godly legacy.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27 ESV)

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female,” and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”
(Matthew 19:4-6 NIV)

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (Genesis 2:18 ESV)

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth.” (Genesis 1:28 NIV)

- Pray for the Lord’s comfort for those who have lost children or who are unable to have children.

The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. (Isaiah 51:3 NIV)

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you
(Isaiah 66:13 NIV)

- Pray against the enemy and that each person will be released from strongholds of shame, guilt, fear, blame shifting and the battle for control.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
(Ephesians 6:12 ESV)

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. (Psalm 34:4-5 NIV)

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.
(1 John 4:18a NLT)

- Pray couples will accept one another recognizing his/her mate is not the enemy.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:5-7 NIV)

Message 4—From How to Wow: God’s Plan for Oneness

Main Teaching Truths

Our culture’s pattern for marriage has obviously failed. God’s plan for oneness in marriage involves three responsibilities: you must leave, cleave, and become one flesh.

1. Leave: The first responsibility is to establish independence from your parents.
2. Cleave: The second responsibility is to establish commitment to one another.
3. Become one flesh: The third responsibility is to establish intimacy with each other.
4. Why is God’s plan difficult to experience?

Highlights

- Oneness grows as we receive our spouse as a gift from God.
- The degree to which you leave is the degree to which you can cleave.

Making It Personal Applications

- Identify areas that are hindering oneness in your marriage.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray that individuals will leave any dependence on parents or other things and cleave to one another emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

(Genesis 2:24 NASB)

- Pray that each couple would allow God to use their differences and weaknesses to build dependency.

And God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27 NASB)

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

(Proverbs 27:17 NASB)

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.

(Philippians 2:3 NASB)

- Pray for couples to receive their spouse as God’s perfect provision.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17 NIV)

And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

(Ephesians 5:21 NLT)

- Many of these couples are facing significant obstacles to oneness due to abuse

issues in the past or present; unfaithfulness; infidelity; or addictions. Pray against every effort of Satan to defeat oneness and every human excuse to reject God's plan.

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV)

Prayer Directives for the **Application Project**: Married, Remarried and Blended Couples

- Pray for the time of individual confession.

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 NIV)

- Pray that each one will commit to God completely by faith to receive his or her spouse based on the integrity and sovereignty of God.

He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD. (Proverbs 18:22)

- Pray that the love letters will be edifying.

Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket. (Proverbs 25:11 NLT)

Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:12-14 NIV)

- Pray for the individuals who are having difficulty writing a love letter. Pray that the Holy Spirit will hold them together and empower them to continue through this weekend until they can be healed.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:17 ESV)

Breakout Pre-married—Part A: So You Wanna Get Married: Preparation for Marriage

Main Teaching Truths

Making wise choices before marriage promotes oneness in marriage. Marriage is a decision that will change the rest of your life. Engagement is a time to proactively prepare for a successful marriage, continue to evaluate your compatibility as a couple, and affirm your commitment to a lifelong marriage.

1. An engaged couple needs to continue evaluating their compatibility for a successful marriage. They need to continue determining whether they are right for each other. They need to evaluate their spiritual compatibility. They need to consider the guidance of others confirming their decision to marry. Honestly evaluating your compatibility reflects the seriousness of their lifelong commitment.
2. Engaged couples should proactively prepare themselves for a successful marriage. Focus on developing your relationship. Arrange for premarital counseling. Choose a mentor couple. Pursue harmony with your extended families.

3. The Bible instructs couples to save sexual involvement until marriage. It does so for practical reasons. It does so for spiritual reasons. An engaged couple should agree together to keep the Promise of Purity.

Making It Personal Applications

- Each person evaluates their compatibility.
- Practical Steps for Affirming Your Commitment to Marriage
- Promise of Purity
- Interaction and Individual Section evaluation
- Post-Getaway Section (a time of seeking God alone and answering some questions to discern God's will for you regarding getting married).

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray that each person will seek God's will for their life and marriage.

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. (Matthew 6:33 NLT)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2 NLT)

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105 NASB)

- Pray that couples will seek and listen to wise counsel. Specifically, pray they will make a commitment to premarital counseling and find a mentor couple.

Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory. (Proverbs 11:14 NASB)

- Pray that they will be honest as they evaluate their compatibility and God's will. Pray that not one pre-married couple leaving this conference will become unequally yoked.

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing together wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. (Philippians 2:1-2 NLT)

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14 ESV)

- Pray that the **Application Project** will produce much fruit. Pray that couples will be honest and truly desire to complete the **Application Project** with integrity. Pray specifically for those in this session who are getting remarried:

- that they will honestly evaluate issues from past relationships that could become stumbling blocks

- that they will be set free from any bondages or wounds so that they can truly understand the will of God for their life
- that their motives will be pure
- that they will acknowledge every fear
- that they will consider the needs and interests of children involved in their decision
- Pray that each individual will set aside a specific time for the **post-conference Application Project.**

Pre-married Part B—Two Becoming One: Preparation for Intimacy

Main Teaching Truths

Preparing well for marital intimacy promotes oneness in marriage. Sexual intimacy was created by God and designed for our good, for our pleasure, and for multiplying a godly legacy. Sexual intimacy was meant to be experienced only in the context of marriage.

1. Beginning a sexual relationship in marriage requires wisdom and sensitivity. Myths about sex are listed. Preparation for the wedding night and the honeymoon.
2. Beginning a sexual relationship in marriage requires a lifelong commitment to purity. Purity is not only abstaining from sex before marriage, but maintaining sexual faithfulness in marriage. Purity involves refraining from all forms of sexual wrongdoing, not just physical relationships. Encouragement for engaged couples to agree to keep the Promise of Purity.

Making It Personal Applications

- Tips for the wedding day and night.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray the speakers will be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and impart truth that reaches both the pure and impure.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you.

(1 Peter 4:10-11a NLT)

Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (Matthew 10:19b-20 NIV)

- Pray couples will have ears to hear the Bible's instruction of the sanctity of the marriage bed and to abstain from sexual involvement until marriage.

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. (Hebrews 13:4 NLT)

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

(1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 NASB)

Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20 NASB)

So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. (Acts 24:16 ESV)

- Pray for each individual currently involved in any impurity (pornography, romantic fantasies, masturbation, emotional ties or intimate conversations with members of the other sex, premarital sex). Pray for conviction, repentance, and confession.
- Pray that the Lord would well up within each person “self control” and provide them with accountability.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age. (Titus 2:11-12 NIV)

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of your sinful nature. ... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:16,22-23 NIV)

- Pray couples will sign and commit themselves to the Promise of Purity.

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:17 NLT)

Message 5—What Every Marriage Needs: God’s Power for Oneness

Main Teaching Truths

Oneness in marriage is the result of fulfilling God’s purposes and following God’s plan for marriage. Oneness with God begins as we establish a relationship with Him and continues as we experience an ongoing relationship with Him.

1. Establish a relationship with God.
2. Experience an ongoing relationship with God.

Making It Personal Applications

- They are given an opportunity to individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- They are given an opportunity to evaluate which tree represents their life: the fruit of self or the fruit of the Spirit.
- They can begin their relationship with God by praying a prayer.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray that God will create a hunger in the soul of each person and draw them to himself through the Holy Spirit. His heart is for them to be His! “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, ... the arm of the LORD is not too short to save” (Isaiah 64:1, 59:1 NIV).

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. ... Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. (Isaiah 55:1-2,6-7 NIV)

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. (John 6:44 NLT)

- Pray that each person will understand the depth of God’s love for them.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NLT)

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. ... He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. (Psalm 103:8, 10-13 NIV)

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.” (Jeremiah 31:3 NIV)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NASB)

- Pray that each unbeliever understands the depth of their depravity and the resulting

isolation from God.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23 ESV)

For the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23a NLT)

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. (Isaiah 51:1-5 NLT)

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9 NIV)

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. (Philippians 3:18-19 ESV)

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the person of Jesus Christ and that they will place their trust in his death, burial, and resurrection.

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NIV)

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12 ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” (John 14:6 NASB)

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ... And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:35, 39-40 NIV)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NASB)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. (John 1:12 NASB)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NASB)

- Pray that each person will ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. (Luke 11:13 NLT)

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for. (1 John 15:14-15 NLT)

- Pray that all will understand what the Holy Spirit does in their lives and what it means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ... But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. (John 14:16,26 NLT)

Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:17-18 NLT)

- Pray couples will spend time in God's Word, pray together as a couple, fellowship with other believers, and confess sin and turn from it when it occurs.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:9-10 ESV)

- Pray that the fruit of the Spirit will begin to be evident.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 NASB)

Saturday Afternoon:

Message 6—We fight too: A Conflict Survival Guide

Main Teaching Truths

Conflict is common to all marriages. The goal of marriage is not to be conflict free but to handle conflict correctly when it occurs. Healthy conflict resolution occurs when couples are willing to seek and grant forgiveness.

1. Conflict comes when one or both spouses do not get what they desire. Unfulfilled desires may result in anger. Unfulfilled desires lead to fighting and quarreling. For conflict to be resolved both husband and wife must be committed to oneness.
2. Resolving conflict requires a loving confrontation. Before you confront examine the offense, and lovingly confront.
3. Resolving conflict requires forgiveness. The Bible teaches that all Christians

are responsible to God to seek and grant forgiveness. The offender needs to seek forgiveness (admit you are wrong and humbly seek forgiveness). The offended spouse needs to grant forgiveness (this is not pretending, conditional, forgetting or an automatic cure for the hurt). Begin the process of rebuilding trust (trust is not automatically reinstated, it is built through consistent behavior over time, your spouse's hurt does not instantly disappear, ask God for wisdom).

4. Conflict can be minimized when we actively choose to bless one another. Blessing begins by cultivating a new attitude. Choosing to give blessings instead of insults. Blessing your spouse follows the example of Jesus (refrain from speaking evil, turn away from evil, do good, seek to be a peacemaker).

Make it Personal Application

- Recognize areas where you are susceptible to anger.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray for a refreshing of each person due to a long morning.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
(Psalm 23:1-3a ESV)

- Pray for the couples to understand anger:

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.
(James 4:1-2 ESV)

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4:6-7 NIV)

- Pray for couples to have the courage to individually walk through the process of resolving conflict, taking ownership of his/her responsibilities.

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24 ESV)

- Pray for couples to walk humbly through the process of resolving conflict with the goal of attaining oneness.

Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. (Psalm 34:13-14 NLT)

Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. (Romans 12:3 NLT)

- Pray for couples struggling with depression to seek counsel. Also, pray for understanding if anger turned inward is the root cause of the depression.

How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will the enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.
(Psalm 13:2-5 NIV)

- Pray for the understanding and application of “loving confrontation.”

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. (Ephesians 4:15 ESV)

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29 NASB)

Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. (Galatians 6:1 NASB)

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.
(Proverbs 15:1 NLT)

- Pray that the couples will understand the power of forgiveness praying through Matthew 18:21-22, and 6:8-15.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
(Ephesians 4:31-32 ESV)

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
(Colossians 3:12-14 ESV)

- Pray for the Lord to begin the process of rebuilding trust in hurting couples. Pray for individuals to put trust in the Lord and His ability to “make all things new” and to “hold all things together.”

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
(Colossians 1:17 ESV)

- Pray through the following Scriptures and then through Psalm 32 or Psalm 51 as the Spirit leads:

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven ... a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1,7b NASB)

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
(1 John 4:18 NASB)

But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.
(James 1:19b NASB)

BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger.
(Ephesians 4:26 NASB)

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. (Proverbs 19:11 ESV)

Message 7—Marriage After Dark: Intimacy from God’s Perspective

Main Teaching Truths

Sexual intimacy between husband and wife is a reflection of a couple’s oneness.

1. Sex was created by God and designed for our good and for multiplying a godly legacy.
2. Sex is a thermometer that can measure your individual well-being.—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.
3. Sex in marriage can be enhanced by understanding the differences between men and women.
4. A satisfying sex life is built on a foundation of companionship, commitment, passion and spiritual intimacy.

Make it Personal Applications

- Check the area that most affects your marital intimacy.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray through the Song of Solomon 7:1-9 and 5:10-16 in the manual on page 107. From these verses pray that couples will place value on creating companionship, strengthening commitment, encouraging passion, and growing in spiritual intimacy.
- Pray for couples to understand to what extent physical, emotional, mental, and/or spiritual factors are affecting sexual intimacy; pray also for direction from the Lord in combating those factors.

Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7:5 ESV)

- Pray for couples to celebrate God’s design, to celebrate their differences, and to have freedom in sexual expression.

Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.

(Ecclesiastes 9:9 NASB)

- Pray for couples to increase companionship, commitment, passion and intimacy.

I am my beloved's and his desire is for me. Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country, let us spend the night in the villages. Let us rise early and go to the vineyards ... there I will give you my love.

(Song of Solomon 7:10-12 NASB)

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, its jealousy as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame. (Song of Solomon 8:6 NLT)

- Pray for individuals to turn from sexual sin and to run from all temptation.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:8-14 NIV)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

(Colossians 3:5 ESV)

Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil.

(Psalm 119:133 NLT)

- Pray for healing of sexual abuse, for He is the Lord who heals. Pray that He would “bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair” according to Isaiah 61:3 (NIV).

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

(Psalm 103:2-5 NIV)

He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.

(Psalm 147:3 NLT)

- Pray for release from any shame and fear related to sexual sin or as the result of the sin of others.

I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. (Psalm 34:4-5 NLT)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame. (Psalm 25:1-3a NIV)

- Pray that husbands and wives will not deprive one another of sexual intimacy.

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8 NASB)

The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.

(1 Corinthians 7:3-4 NLT)

Prayer Directives and Scripture for **Application Project** and for **Date Night**: Married, Remarried and Blended couples.

- Pray through Psalm 18 and Psalm 91 asking the Lord to protect each couple.

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3 NASB)

- Pray that couples will be honest and open without fear as they evaluate their sexual relationship. Pray that the Lord will guide their discussion.

- Pray couples will recognize that sex is a gift from God and that an attitude of giving establishes oneness.

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (Genesis 2:23-25 ESV)

- Pray God will use this time for the couples to appreciate, affirm, re-evaluate, renew, and rebuild marital relationships. Pray that the relationship will truly reflect God's plan for the family.

- Pray for those who may not be able to be intimate with each other.

- Pray that couples will truly surrender their sex life to the Lord, that their thinking about sex will be aligned with God's thoughts and purposes.

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (Hebrews 13:4 ESV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform to this world any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2 NIV)

- Pray for God to expose any places where individuals have pursued sexual fulfillment outside of their marriage; pray for repentance and restoration.

Sunday Morning:

Message 8—Woman to Woman: Embracing God’s Wonderful Design

Main Teaching Truths

A wise woman embraces God’s design for her home.

1. How does a woman become the kind of wife and mother God has designed her to be? By growing in her relationship with God, respecting and supporting her husband, teaching and training her children.
2. A discerning woman chooses God’s design for her rather than yield to other influences.
3. A strong woman demonstrates love by respecting and supporting her husband.
4. An effective mother lovingly teaches and trains her children.
5. A wise woman depends on God.

Making It Personal Application

- Evaluate attitudes and actions toward your husband.
- Evaluate attitudes and actions toward your children.
- Share with your husband some of what you learned here this morning.

Prayer Directive and Scripture

- Pray that each woman will personally embrace God’s design of wife and mother.

Train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God. (Titus 2:4-5 NASB)

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. (Proverbs 31:10-12 ESV)

- Pray for the women to prioritize wisely. Pray that Jesus Christ will be each woman’s first love.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:5 ESV)

- Pray Christ’s exhortation to the church in Ephesus: “You don’t love me or each

other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to Me and do the works you did at first.” (Revelation 2:4b-5a NLT)

- Pray for repentance.
- Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit for each woman to love Jesus, her husband, her child/children with wholehearted abandon.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to give each woman “works” of love in her home to model her love for Christ.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. (John 13:14 ESV)

- Pray for the women to have open hearts regarding the definition of “helper.” Pray that each woman would be genuinely awed by the honor God himself has bestowed on the role of helper.

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (Genesis 2:18 ESV)

Behold God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. (Psalm 54:4 ESV)

If you love Me, obey My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth. (John 14:15-17a NLT)

- Pray that each woman would intimately know God as her Helper in adjusting her priorities and her heart to be obedient to His design for her life.

For apart from Me, you can do nothing. (John 15:5b NASB)

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (2 Peter 1:3-4 NIV)

- Pray that each woman would accept that a husband and wife have equal standing spiritually before God.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28 ESV)

- Pray that each woman would embrace the value of being attentive to her husband and children. Pray that each woman would lay her own life down for the life of her family.

Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interest, but take an interest in others too. You must have the same attitude that Jesus Christ had. (Philippians 2:3-5 NLT)

- Pray for women to respect and support their husbands.

And let the wife see to it that she respects and reverences her husband [that

she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]. (Ephesians 5:33b AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

- Pray that each woman will communicate unconditional respect through:
 - an attitude of unconditional respect communicated in her attitude
 - words of gratitude and praise
 - appropriate silence
 - listening attentively
 - affirming her husband's masculinity
 - trusting him to make decisions
- Pray that each woman understands that submission does not mean that she is inferior or that she should blindly follow her husband into sin or subject herself to verbal or physical abuse. Pray that women in these situations would get help.
- Likewise, pray for conviction for women involved in emotional or physical affairs.
- Pray wives will submit to their husbands, therefore modeling to them, their children, and the world, the relationship of Christ's bride (the church) to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (Ephesians 5:22-23 ESV)

He is your example, and you must follow his steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over by observing your pure and reverent lives. (1 Peter 2:21b-3:2 NLT)

- Pray for a spirit of unity and interdependence.

However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. (1 Corinthians 11:11 NASB)

- Pray that the women will understand God's perspective on motherhood.
- Pray that the women will realize that children are a gift from God.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. (Psalm 127:3 AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

- Pray that God would give each woman unconditional love for her children.
- Pray for women to teach and train their children.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. (Proverbs 31:26 ESV)

Hear my son, your father's instruction and forsake not your mother's teaching. (Proverbs 1:8 ESV)

A child left to himself brings shame to his mother. ... Discipline your son and he will give you rest; he will give you delight to your heart. (Proverbs 29:15b,17 ESV)

Message 8—Man to Man: Stepping up to a Higher Call

Main Teaching Truths

1. A man takes responsibility to follow Christ.
2. A man takes responsibility for his role as a husband.
3. A man takes responsibility for his role as a father.
4. A wise man depends on God.

Making It Personal Applications

- Each man will analyze how well he is loving and leading his wife.
- Each man will rate how well he is loving and leading his children.
- Identify one area where, with God's help, you want to make a change.
- Share with your wife some of what you learned here this morning.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray that husbands will take responsibility to accept God's design for marriage.

For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. (Ephesians 5:23 NASB)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18 NASB)

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3 ESV)

However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. (1 Corinthians 11:11 NASB)

However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. (John 15:5b AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

- Pray for husbands to love like the Savior.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25 AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.
(Colossians 3:19 ESV)

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:28-30 ESV)

- Pray that men will lead like a servant.

You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (John 13:13-15 ESV)

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and their high officials exercise authority over them. No so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(Mark 10: 42-45 NIV)

- Pray for the men to lead with understanding.

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
(1 Peter 3:7 ESV).

- Pray for the men who are **abdicated** or **abusing** their role as the spiritual head of the home. Pray for conviction from the Holy Spirit, repentance, and confession during the application time, and complete restoration!

"The LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. ...Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth." (Malachi 2:14b-15 NASB)

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8 NIV)

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5:16a NLT)

- Pray husbands will understand their role as family leader and pray for godly character.

And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.
(Malachi 4:6 NASB)

Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God,

men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them, as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.
(Exodus 18:21 NASB)

- Pray for fathers as the family manager.

He must be one who manages his own household well
(1 Timothy 3:4 NASB)

But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers. (1 Timothy 5:8 NLT)

He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.
(Psalm 78:72 NLT)

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4 NASB)

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
(James 1:5 NASB)

- Pray for fathers as the family minister.

Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.
(Psalm 127:3-4 NASB)

Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.
(1 Peter 5:2-4 NLT)

- Pray for fathers as the family model.

Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding, for I give you sound teaching; do not abandon my instruction.
(Proverbs 4:1-2 NASB)

For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. (Psalm 78:5-7 NLT)

And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9 NLT)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
(Romans 12:2 NLT)

- Pray that the men will know to whom they can run in time of need and that they will commit to live their lives submitted to the control of the Holy Spirit.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30 ESV)

Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18 NIV)

- Pray for openness in their sharing during the next break. Pray again for conviction, repentance, confession, and restoration!

Message 9—Leaving a legacy: What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave?

Main Teaching Truths

A godly legacy requires more than an inward focus. It requires thinking outwardly as well.

1. Leaving a godly legacy requires a reality check.
2. Leaving a godly legacy requires developing a godly family.
3. Leaving a godly legacy requires putting a stake in the ground.

Making It Personal Applications

- Turn to the Take It Home box on page 1 of the manual. Write one, two, or three things you are going to begin doing on the Weekend to Remember Priority Application Points section.

Prayer Directives and Scripture

- Pray that couples will commit to leave a godly legacy and that they will endure.

Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods of your forefathers worshiped beyond the river in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.
(Joshua 24:14-15 NIV)

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4 NASB)

May the LORD direct your hearts to the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ. (2 Thessalonians 3:5 ESV)

- Pray for a personal pursuit of growth in Christ for both individuals and couples.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2 NLT)

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. (John 15:4 NIV)

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need.... (Colossians 1:9-11 NLT)

- Pray for an understanding of God's spiritual armor and it's application as couples lead their families into the battle.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:10-13 NIV)

- Pray couples will have a desire to reach out to the world.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20 NASB)

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. (Acts 1:8 ESB)

- Pray for couples' safety and protection as they return home and resume their lives.
- Pray couples will lean on the power of the Holy Spirit to deal with the challenges they will undoubtedly face.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your

paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NASB)

- Pray those who made a commitment to Christ will find a biblically-based church home.
- Pray that pre-married couples will lean on Christ as they make final decisions.
- Pray that remarried couples will also lean on Christ in dealing with their particular challenges.
- Pray couples will think of these things:

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (Philippians 4:8 NLT)

Endnotes:

1. Pray the Word Ministries™ prayer guide for Rekindling the Romance® Marriage Conference Prayer Guide.
2. Pray the Word Ministries™ prayer guide
3. Pray the Word Ministries™ prayer guide
4. “For the Family” by Sylvia Gunter
5. “Prayer Portions” by Sylvia Gunter

INTERCESSION

The greatest intercessor is Jesus. He lives to intercede.

All believers are called to pray and intercede. Regarding prayer, we are to follow Christ’s character. Christ would go away and pray for an entire night. He would intercede for everyone. “He [Christ] always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25 NASB).

Not all prayer is intercession. Most people offer prayers of petition. True intercession includes seeking the heart of God in particular situations, listening for discernment from the Holy Spirit about how to pray, asking God for divine intervention, and for destroying the works of Satan.

Definitions for Intercede/Intercession:

- Intercede (from Webster) is “to go or pass between; to act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend; to interpose; to mediate or make intercession; mediation.”¹
- A summarization of this definition by Dutch Sheets is “mediating, going between, pleading for another, representing one party to another for, but not limited to, legal situations.”²
- The Hebrew word used for intercession is “paga.” “Paga” means to meet. Intercessors meet with God; they also meet the powers of darkness. We meet with Him asking Him to meet with someone else. We become the go-between: “Heavenly Father, I come to you today (a meeting) asking you to touch Tom (another meeting).” On the opposite end of the spectrum, as Christ did through spiritual warfare, our meeting with the enemy is to undo a meeting—breaking, a severing, a disuniting” (Sheets, p.50).

When we think of interceding for others, we can use the Scriptures to “weep with those who weep” and “bear one another’s burdens” (Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:2 NASB). Two Greek words used for bearing are “anechomai” and “bastazo.” “Anechomai” means to sustain, bear, or hold up against a thing. (Think of a tomato plant staked to sustain it’s weight.) “Bastazo” means to bear, lift, or carry with the idea being to carry away or remove it. So intercession is “paga”: He “lays on” us someone else’s need. “Anechomai”: We “stake” ourselves to that person. “Bastazo”: We “carry away” the weakness or burden (Sheets, p.70).

Humanity needs Christ’s intercession, which is to go between God and us and reconcile us to God. We need Christ to go between Satan and us and to separate us from him. Our

prayers of intercession are an extension of Jesus' work of intercession.

Endnotes:

1. *The Consolidated Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary* (Chicago: Consolidated Book Publisher, 1954), p. 384.
2. Dutch Sheets, *Intercessory Prayer* (Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, 1996), p.37.