

CHURCH OF JOY'S 2018

Marriage

SEMINAR

All things New



Marriage Seminar Workbook

Your guide to having a strong Godly relationship.

Presented by Pastor Louie & Tricia Reyes. Founders & Senior Pastors of Church of Joy



CHURCH OF JOY - 2000 WESTERN AVE, WAUKEGAN, IL 60087

*Forget the former things do not dwell on the past See, I am
doing a New thing! Now it Springs up; do you not perceive
it? I am Making a Way in the wilderness and streams in
the wasteland.*

Isaiah 43:18-19



A SPECIAL NOTE FROM PASTOR LOUIE AND TRICIA

We are standing in faith with you and your spouse to experience joy, happiness and love in your marriage! We are glad that you have chosen to humble yourself and receive wisdom for your marriage. God is faithful to give us answers through His Word to help us live out every day in our relationship.

Marriage is a reflection of God's glory; however, most relationships fail because of hurts, high expectations and expectations and especially broken trust. We have learned through the revelation God has given us that we cannot trust anyone else until we first learn to trust God! If we trust Him, He will help us trust others and through this process you can learn to forgive and love others unconditionally.

One main foundation that God has imparted into us is found in **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**. This revelation has been overwhelming, yet life changing. **1 John 4:18** says "...perfect love casts out fear..." the opposite of fear is faith, so we want to increase your faith to believe for your marriage and other relationships that you may be struggling with. God's love never fails, which is why we must learn to love God's way, and through His Word so that our love for one another will not fail.

Above all, have [a] fervent and unfailing love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins [it overlooks unkindness and unselfishly seeks the best for others].

1 Peter 4:8 (AMP)

In His Love!
Pastor Louie & Tricia Reyes



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- Restoration, Conflict, Intimacy & Sex, Communication

One

- This 52-week devotional provides basic principles for building the marriage of your dreams plus stimulating discussion starters and fun activities to complete together
- Restoration, Conflict, Communication

Sex, Love, and Communication

- Unlock the key to achieving the love and intimacy you desire with your words.
- Conflict, Intimacy & Sex, Communication

From Pain to Paradise

- Karen Evans shares her vulnerable testimony and shows you how to gain victory over emotional pain through the power of the Word of God.
- Restoration, Communicatio

Marriage Seminar Schedule

Friday, October 12th

7:00pm – 9:30pm Evening Session | Pastor Luis Reyes

Saturday, October 13th

10:00am – 10:55am – Morning Session I | Pastor Luis Reyes

10:55am – 11:00am Break

11:00am – 11:55am – Morning Session II | Pastor Luis Reyes

11:55am – 12:00pm Break

12:00pm – 1:00pm – Breakout Session

Men – Pastor Luis Reyes

Women – Tricia Reyes

1:00pm – 2:00pm – Break / Café Open

2:00pm – 3:00pm Vow Renewal Ceremony

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Notes:

"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her." **Ephesians 5:25:**

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Notes:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

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Notes:

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man."

Proverbs 3:3-4

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Notes:

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." -
Ephesians 4:2

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Notes:

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." - **John 15:12:**

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Notes:

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." **Romans 12:10.**

My Love Identity

I Corinthians 13:4-8

- I am patient and sincere
- I am kind and thoughtful
- I am not jealous or envious
- I do not brag, and I am not proud or arrogant
- I am not rude
- I am not self-seeking
- I am not provoked, overly sensitive and easily angered
- I do not take into account a wrong endured
- I do not rejoice at injustice, but I rejoice with the truth, when right and truth prevail
- I can bear all things regardless of what comes
- I can believe all things by looking for the best in each one
- I have hope by remaining steadfast during difficult times
- I can endure all things without weakening.
- My love never fails, and it never fades or ends.

Date Challenge

Commit to having regular dates with your spouse. Dates can be anything from staying in to going out. Be intentional this year about connection romantically with each other.

Below are some fun ideas to get you started!

1. One pics a dinner spot, one pics dessert. Choose your favorite or try something you've never had before. Share each other's plate!
2. When was the last time you played a board game together? Stay home, dine in and enjoy some friendly, flirty competition.
3. Find a coupon for local activity you have never tried together. Embrace the adventure! (Miniature Golf, Bowling, Dave & Busters, etc...)
4. Gear up! Take a camping trip, just the two of you, or set up a tent in your backyard. Cozy up and roast marshmallows under the night sky!
5. Once or twice a month, go get coffee or ice cream together! Do you know your spouse's favorite drink or flavor of ice cream?
6. Go for walks together, there's nothing greater than to have good conversation while taking a walk!

“As Your Wife I Feel Loved When...”

Closeness – I feel a closeness with you (face to face and heart to heart) when you:

- Hold my hand
- Hug me
- Are affectionate without sexual intentions

Openness: I feel an openness with you (you are not secretly mad) when you:

- Share your feelings
- Tell me about your day and challenges
- Talk without harshness, guardedness, or grunting

Understanding: I feel you understand me (empathize with me) when you:

- Listen to me (know when to give advice and when not to solve my problems)
- Repeat back what I sometimes say so I now you're listening to me
- Express appreciation for my contribution and roles by saying, “I couldn't do your job”

Peacemaking: I feel at peace with you (issues are resolved) when you:

- Admit you are wrong and apologize by saying “I am sorry” (which is a turn on to a woman)
- Keep the relationship up to date, resolved the unresolved, and don't say “forget it”
- Pray together after a hurtful time

Loyalty: I feel a loyalty from you (complete commitment) when you:

- Don't look at other women
- Speak only positive things about me before family and friends; no airing of dirty laundry
- Do not bring up the "D" word (divorce) but are committed until death do us part

Esteem: I feel esteemed by you (treasured above others) when you:

- Verbally support and honor me in front of the children
- Praise me for what I do for you
- Value my opinion in the gray areas; not wrong just different from you

“As Your Husband I Feel Respected When...”

Conquest: I feel you appreciate my pursuits in my field (my desire to work and achieve) when you:

- Tell me “thanks” for going to work every day for the family
- Cheer on my successes whether in business or in sports
- Ask me to talk about my dreams

Hierarchy: I feel you appreciate my position as overseer (my desire to protect and provide and even die for you) when you:

- Say to me “I really do look up to you for feeling responsible for me”
- Tell me that you are deeply touched by the thought that “I’d die for you”
- Praise my commitment to provide, i.e. “bring home the bacon”

Authority: I feel you appreciate my power on your behalf (my desire to be strong, to lead and make decisions) when you:

- Tell me I’m strong as you squeeze my muscle (it’s symbolic)
- Praise my good decisions
- Honor my authority in front of the kids and differ with me in private

Insight: I feel you appreciate my perspective and proposals (my desire to analyze and counsel) when you:

- Thank me for my advice and knowledge
- Let me fix things and applaud my solution orientation
- Tell me up-front you need “an ear” to listen and not a solution

Relationship: I feel you appreciate my partnership and pastimes (my desire for a shoulder-to-shoulder friendship) when you:

- Tell me you like me
- Do recreational activities with me, or watch me do them
- Encourage alone time for me; this energizes me to re-connect with you later

Sexuality: I feel you appreciate my passions and pleasures (my desire for sexual intimacy) when you:

- Initiate periodically
- Respond more often
- Let me acknowledge my sexual temptations without shaming me or me feeling shamed

Marriage Confessions

- I choose to stay committed to my marriage and to my spouse for the rest of my life because of my covenant with God (Mark 10:2-9)
- I thank the Lord for my spouse and my marriage, and refuse to take my spouse for granted
- I thank you Lord that I am content with my spouse and that I do not compare my spouse with other people
- I am truly grateful and appreciative for my spouse and the person you've created them to be
- I love my spouse unconditionally and allow the love of God to be shed abroad my heart
- I honor and respect my spouse, and I am submitted to my spouse
- Lord, bind our hearts together and let us be unified and in agreement
- I release all hurt, bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness toward my spouse
- I am healed from all hurts, delivered from the root of bitterness and resentment and I walk in complete forgiveness towards my spouse
- I bind the spirit of pride in my life and my marriage and loose a spirit of humility
- I am not co-dependent on my spouse but completely dependent on the Lord
- I do not look to my spouse to meet every one of my needs, only the Lord can meet all of my needs. I release my spouse from the burden to meet all my needs
- I commit to live pure and keep my marriage holy. My body shall be for no other nor will it be withheld from my spouse. (Romans 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:20, 1 Cor. 7:1-5)
- I thank you Lord that I can trust my spouse because I trust you first

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- I commit to pray for my spouse for their weaknesses, their well-being, their health and their purpose
- Change me Lord before you change them, so I can be a better wife/husband
- I commit to working on areas that have damaged, hurt and made my marriage difficult. Areas such as communication, dishonesty, lack of respect and love, unfaithfulness, anger, verbal / physical abuse, lack of responsibility, and other areas that have hurt my marriage. I repent of these sins towards my spouse and I forgive my spouse for their sins towards me.
- I will always find ways to compliment and encourage my spouse
- I will look for ways to spend quality time with my spouse to continue to build our relationship and deepen our love for one another.

Prayer for my Wife

Lord, THANK YOU for sending me such an incredible partner, best friend and wife. Next to your grace, her love is the greatest gift in my life. Please never let me take her for granted. Help me to love, cherish, respect, adore, and protect her the way that she deserves. I know she's not only my wife...She's YOUR daughter, and you've trusted me to be her husband. Please help me to love her the way that you love her; being willing to lay down my life for her the way you have done for us.

Father, we live in a world where your daughters are being objectified and used as images for lust and selfish gratification. Please help me keep my eyes and my heart pure in a world of sin and exploitation. Help me have eyes only for my wife. Give her the confidence to know that she'll never have to compete for my attention against an airbrushed image of another woman. Let her know that I'm now and always captivated by her inner beauty and her outer beauty as well.

Please keep her away from the "Comparison Trap" that would tempt shatter her confidence and replace it with insecurity. Help her know she doesn't need to compare her life or her accomplishments to anyone else's because your plan for her is masterfully unique. Help me to be her biggest encourager and never her biggest critic. Give me the words to say when she needs encouragement and give me the wisdom to know when to shut up and be quiet when she just needs me to listen.

Help me to support her dreams and passions to propel her to achieving all you have for her. For all she will achieve, please don't let her fall into the trap of believing her identity is wrapped up in achievements (or failures), but her

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identity is secured in your love for her. Never let her lose sight of the fact that she's eternally loved by you and let her find strength in my love for her as well.

Fill her heart with joy. Let laughter fill the soundtrack of our life together. Even in the difficult seasons, help us choose joy as we're reminded that our struggles are temporary, but because of you Lord, our joy will be eternal. Help me be strong for her on the days she's feeling weak and help her be strong for me on the days I'm feeling weak, and Lord, please give us both strength for all that's ahead. Help us to NEVER lose faith in you or give up on each other.

Thank you, Lord, for my amazing wife! She's a priceless gift to be treasured, and I pray that you'd help me to be a gift to her as well. Please give me the wisdom, courage and strength to be the best husband I can be today and every day.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer for my Husband

Lord, THANK YOU for my husband. He is an amazing partner and blessing in my life. He is more than I could ever ask for. I know that neither one of us is perfect, but we are perfectly imperfect together. Lord, help my husband thrive in his job and to gain great fulfillment in his work. Help him to inspire others with his work ethic and positive attitude.

Lord, let him see the fruits of his labor, and in lean times, help him to remember that You are still in control. Give him a hunger for Your Word, Lord. May he be a light to our family and to others. Remind him that only You define him; his purpose comes from You...not his work, hobbies, or even me, Lord. Help him to prioritize his life according to Your will...God, family, and then everything else. Let there be joy in our hearts and our home. Give us a rock-solid marriage built on a firm foundation of faith and forgiveness.

Let our love be a testimony of the tremendous love and grace You have for us. Help us to work as a team in parenting our children. Let us speak kindly to one another and our children. Help us to teach them Your ways and to see this manifested in our own lives. Lord, we so desire our marriage to be one that makes our kids want to get married someday.

I pray that we always make time for each other every single day. When my husband feels disconnected, Lord, give him the courage to come to me and share his heart. Let truth and trust flow through our marriage and home. Help him to flee temptation. Convict his heart when he is wrong, so we can get back on the right path. May my husband only have eyes for me alone, and I only have eyes for him alone. Lord, give us a close, honest, loving, and vibrant intimacy that keeps us tightly intertwined in mind, body, and soul.

May there be nothing between us; no people, lies, or things left unsaid. I thank you for bringing us together, and I pray a special blessing on his life and our life together. Help me to be the very best wife I can be to him, Lord.

In Jesus' Name, Amen