

5 Day Devotional Based on Family Summer Series #10

Day 1: The Foundation of Godly Marriage

Reading: Genesis 2:18-25, Ephesians 5:21-33

Devotional: God's design for marriage is beautifully outlined in Scripture, beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve. As we reflect on these passages, we see that marriage is meant to be a reflection of Christ's relationship with the Church. Just as Christ loves, sacrifices for, and leads the Church, husbands are called to love, sacrifice for, and lead their wives. Wives, in turn, are called to respect and support their husbands, mirroring the Church's relationship with Christ.

Today, reflect on your own marriage or future marriage. How can you better embody Christ's love in your relationships? If you're single, consider how you can prepare your heart to love others as Christ loves us. Pray for God to shape your understanding of love and commitment according to His perfect design.

Day 2: Submission as Strength Reading: Colossians 3:18-21, 1 Peter 3:1-7

Devotional: The concept of submission in marriage is often misunderstood or misapplied. However, when viewed through the lens of Christ's submission to the Father, we see that submission is actually a position of strength, not weakness. It requires trust, humility, and a willingness to put another's needs before our own.

For husbands, loving your wife as Christ loved the church means being willing to sacrifice everything for her well-being. For wives, submitting to your husband means trusting in his leadership as you both follow Christ. This mutual submission creates a harmonious partnership that glorifies God.

Today, consider areas in your life where you struggle with submission - to God, to your spouse, or to others in authority. Ask God to help you see submission as He does, and to give you the strength to submit out of love and respect, not fear or obligation.

Day 3: The Power of Unity in Marriage Reading: Mark 10:6-9, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Devotional: God's intention for marriage is unity - two becoming one flesh. This unity goes beyond physical intimacy; it encompasses emotional, spiritual, and relational oneness. When a couple is truly united, they become a powerful force for God's kingdom, supporting and strengthening each other in their faith journey.

Unity doesn't mean uniformity. Each spouse brings unique gifts, perspectives, and strengths to the relationship. When these differences are embraced and leveraged for the good of the marriage and God's glory, the couple becomes stronger than they could ever be individually.

Reflect today on the areas where you and your spouse (or future spouse) complement each other. How can you better appreciate and utilize each other's strengths? If you're single, consider how you can foster unity in your other relationships, such as with friends, family, or in your church community.

Day 4: Overcoming Bitterness in Relationships

Reading: Ephesians 4:31-32, Hebrews 12:14-15

Devotional: Bitterness can be a silent killer in marriages and other relationships. It often starts small - a hurtful word, an unmet expectation, a perceived slight - but if left unchecked, it can grow into a poisonous root that destroys love and trust.

The antidote to bitterness is forgiveness and grace, modeled perfectly by Christ. He forgave us when we were still sinners, and He calls us to extend that same forgiveness to others, especially our spouses.

Today, examine your heart for any seeds of bitterness. Are there hurts you've been holding onto? Expectations that have gone unmet? Bring these to God in prayer, asking Him to help you release them and replace bitterness with His love and grace. If necessary, have a loving conversation with your spouse or others involved to address and resolve these issues.

Day 5: Building a Christ-Centered Legacy

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:1-7

Devotional: A godly marriage isn't just about the husband and wife; it's about building a legacy of faith that impacts future generations. As we see in today's readings, God calls us to diligently teach our children about Him, passing down our faith through both words and actions.

In a Christ-centered marriage, spouses encourage each other in their spiritual growth, pray together, study God's Word together, and model Christ's love for their children and others around them. This creates a powerful testimony and a strong foundation for future generations.

Reflect today on the legacy you're building. How are you and your spouse growing together in faith? If you have children, how are you intentionally passing on your faith to them? If you're single, consider how you can invest in the next generation through mentoring or serving in your church's children's or youth ministry. Pray for God's guidance in building a legacy that honors Him and blesses others.