

From tHis Day Forward (Feb. 7 to 21)

Every wedding includes an exchanging of vows meant to solidify one's commitment to the other. And while the words in the ceremony are heartfelt, their true definition is revealed through the circumstances that follow — "from this day forward," "for better or worse," and "'til death do us part." From February 7 to 21, we'll take a three-week break from our study of Luke with "From This Day Forward."

Group Discussion

Main Text: Mark 10:2-9

Getting started: What is your favorite romantic comedy or love story movie?

- 1. Read Mark 10:6-9. What do you think it means for two to be united into one, or to go from 'me' to 'we'? Why is this so difficult to do?
- 2. One barrier that can separate marriages and relationships is unrealistic expectations. Some of these are: "Your feelings will always be like they were at first," "I shouldn't have to work at my marriage, it should just come naturally," "You will solve every problem in your marriage," "It's my spouses job to make me happy," and "You will express and receive love the same way."

Can you think of examples for each of these that you have seen or experienced? Are there any other unrealistic expectations you can think of? How can you remove this barrier of unrealistic expectations?

 Another barrier to relationships and marriage is underestimated differences. Some of these are: "Unmet needs," "unresolved anger," "unsafe environments," "uncut umbilical cord," "unrelenting criticism," "unwillingness to change," and "unrepentant sin." Can you think of examples for each of these that you have seen or experienced? Are there any other underestimated differences you can think of? How can you remove this barrier of underestimated differences?

Next Steps

Research shows that only around 8% of Christian couples say they pray together, but the divorce rate among those that pray together daily is about 1 in 10,000.

Can you commit to praying with your spouse or significant other every day this week? What about this is difficult or intimidating? What would help you be able to do this?

the art of marriage

A one-day event. Feb. 27 in Jasper and March 6 in Loogootee. Register at RedemptionIN.com/artofmarriage