

## MONDAY 03.16.26 - Matthew 19:4-6

Jesus' teaching in Matthew 19 shows us God's heart for marriage. While the pharisees debated divorce from a legal standpoint based on Deuteronomy, Jesus pointed them all the way back to the beginning in Genesis. There we see God's design: a man and woman joined together so deeply that the two become one.

Scripture teaches that divorce was permitted because of hardened hearts, not because it reflects God's ideal. When hearts drift from God's ways, selfishness and distance slowly erode the unity He created. That is why divorce is so painful—it separates something God joined together.

Yet even in this difficult reality, God's grace remains. The Lord sees every hurt and heartache. His desire is always restoration—first with Himself, and then with one another. As His people, we pray for softened hearts and marriages that increasingly reflect His faithful forever love.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## TUESDAY 03.17.26 - 1 Peter 3:1-6

We all have heard the pearl of wisdom, "Pretty is as pretty does". In 1 Peter 3:1-6 Peter is calling Christian wives to live out that maxim. Although this scripture is specifically speaking to wives, I think all believers can benefit from Peter's words here. Peter is calling Christian wives to be gentle in spirit and winsome in their behavior in effort to win over their unbelieving husbands to Christ, but EVERY Christian has an unbeliever in his life that could benefit from his gentle spirit. When our behavior reflects our beliefs, unbelieving hearts can soften to the gospel when we share it. Peter also calls wives to not be so focused on their outward appearance that they neglect their care of their souls. This is valuable wisdom for every believer, man or woman. Our inner beauty, whether masculine or feminine comes from our reverence toward God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## WEDNESDAY 03.18.26 - Ephesians 5:25-33

Paul has much more to say to husbands than to wives. He set for them a very high standard—love your wives as Christ loved the Church. Paul was lifting married love to the highest level possible, for he saw in the Christian home an illustration of the relationship between Christ and believers.

Paul states that the husband is responsible for loving his wife. The love Paul mentions here is not the world's concept of love. The world views love as feeling oriented and selfish. The world says, "If it feels good and satisfies me, then it must be love." Rather, the love Paul refers to is agape love. That is, the husband's unselfish, sacrificial giving of himself to his wife for her benefit without expectation of repayment.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## THURSDAY 03.19.26 - Genesis 2:18

If God only gave power and authority to a certain group of people, he would rightly be looked at as unfair, uncaring or discriminatory. Instead, our God of fairness and compassion has shared with us good rules for living and has encompassed husbands, wives, children, family, friends, employers and employees and others. Here he commences in the very beginning. Man should not be alone. The reasons are multifold. For procreation, of course. But beyond that, man alone is reckless and roaming. His mind takes him to places he should not go and he goes. He would be a vagabond and a warrior.

It is the 'helper fit for him' that God made, that makes all the difference. In that helper man finds balance, security, purpose, stability and direction. All his drives are restrained and given rounded edges. It is just perfect, what God has done. Afterall, He is God, of course.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## FRIDAY 03.20.26 - Psalm 128

*"Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD. May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you live to see your children's children-peace be on Israel".*

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, ... We see throughout scripture that there is one thing that God wants of us more than any other. That one thing is to be in first place in all aspects of our life. This is God's highest desire because if this is true all the other things He desires of us will fall into place. Think about it! Put Him first in your marriage you are likely to have a better marriage, put Him first in your job and work will be more enjoyable and rewarding, put Him first in your family and your family will be more harmonious and purposeful, put Him first in..., you fill in the blank and whatever it is will likely be better. Examine your life and ask God to show you areas in your life where He is in second place, then ask Him to help you deal with those areas. Remember, without exception, God knows what's best!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY- 9:00am

**“In View of God’s Mercies”, by: Courtney Doctor  
Led by Brenda Ross; Rm 2**

This 9-week study walks through the book of Romans to discover that salvation doesn’t just change your eternal future; it changes your present reality. Because of God’s salvation, hope, peace, life, faith, trust, and endurance are yours.

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

**Kids** CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level  
NURSERY (through Age 3) \*9:40AM ONLY  
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level

**Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

**Adults** **SPRING QUARTER** - Sunday Mornings at 9:40  
  
LOCATION: B8-10 - Dave Heineman- began Mar. 1  
**EXPLORE THE BIBLE:  
Matthew 14-28**  
Gaining a better understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day.

LOCATION: B11 -Dave Delcamp - began Mar. 1  
**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:  
Understanding the Character of God**  
Through the revelation of Scripture—and His ultimate revelation through Jesus Christ—we can see exactly who God is.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

**Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)  
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

**Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,  
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

## Ephesians 5:22-24 **A Marriage That Goes The Distance (part 1)**

The Book of Ephesians is about the Church—the Body of Christ.

In Ephesians 1-3, Paul presents the Church’s R\_\_\_\_\_.

In chapters 4-6, Paul presents the R\_\_\_\_\_.

The 1<sup>st</sup> “walk” is to live in u\_\_\_\_\_ (4:1-16).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> “walk” is to live in h\_\_\_\_\_ (4:17-32).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> “walk” is to live in l\_\_\_\_\_ (5:1-7).

The 4<sup>th</sup> “walk” is to live in l\_\_\_\_\_ (5:8-14).

The 5<sup>th</sup> “walk” is to live in w\_\_\_\_\_ (5:15-21).

Submission is not: S\_\_\_\_\_ or S\_\_\_\_\_


Submission is \_\_\_\_\_

Headship is not \_\_\_\_\_

Headship is \_\_\_\_\_

How to show respect for your husband:

- Express confidence in his decision-making ability.
- Leave him a note telling him how much you value who he is as a person.
- If he botches a task at home, don’t sigh, roll your eyes, and mutter at him. Instead, thank him for at least trying.
- Make a positive suggestion without demanding an immediate answer. Ask him to reflect on it for a while.
- Encourage him in areas where he doesn’t feel secure and let him know that you stand behind him.
- When he makes a decision you’re not in favor of, listen. Don’t argue, nag, or demean him.
- Talk about his positive strengths in front of others, especially your children.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 16 – March 20

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from, March 15<sup>th</sup>, “A Marriage That Goes The Distance” (pt1). Wednesday through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on March 29<sup>th</sup>, “A Marriage That Goes The Distance”(pt.2).

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children.  
Ephesians 5:1