

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



TED & TONIE FARRIS | NEW MEXICO, USA

PRAY

- For the family of a recent convert, Corraine. She lost her brother and we were able to speak and share Jesus at his graveside service.
- For Dominic, who recently came back from a alcohol recovery program in Oklahoma.
- For Mermit, a young man who has visited the church on and off, who has been placed on hospice care. Also pray for his mother, Myrtle who is not saved.



Handout: 02/26/23
Study Date: 03/05/23

Best Marriage Ever

Most couples do not realize that glorifying God is the deeper meaning of a Biblical marriage. In most marriages, the focus on Jesus is the missing puzzle piece to the abundance God planned. We seek the ways of the world (riches, lust, vanity, self-absorption) to guide us in marriage, while Jesus is waiting for us to seek Him through His Word. Gary Thomas, in his book Sacred Marriage, says, “What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?” A marriage between a husband and wife is not about them, but about God, and how running after Him, and taking the focus off of ourselves, gives us the abundant marriage He wants for us.

Does this mean a marriage cannot be successful without Christ? No, it does not. By the looks of things, Jeff and I had a wonderful marriage, but did not know what we were missing. Now we know our ignorance, and understand what it means to allow Christ into our marriage and to capture our hearts. This time around, we are experiencing far more than we could have ever asked or imagined.

How do we miss the importance of putting Jesus first? Many times, it is ignorance. We had no idea how the depth of our spiritual focus related to the state of our marriage. Now that we know the difference, we cannot imagine going back to how we were living, back to the lack of focus we had.

I wrote about the dawns of this realization in I Do Again:

“For six weeks I sat nearly disbelieving as I listened to [pastor] Tommy Nelson. He was teaching that God intended us to experience deep emotional, sexual, and spiritual satisfaction in marriage. He spoke about keeping romance alive, about growing closer together while resolving conflicts, about treating each other with respect. He explained how a marriage with God at the center looked completely different from a “worldly” or godless relationship. He was talking about a marriage filled with greater love, joy, and commitment than I’d ever known. I felt numb as it dawned on me that Jeff and I had lived our marriage very far from God’s plan. I had not even known God had a specific plan for marriage. This was all new to me. Relationships, God-style.”

When we ignore God’s plan, we end up frustrated, trying to control our lives on our own. The focus in our marriage can become a form of, “if you scratch my back I will scratch yours.” It’s like we have an unwritten contract where each spouse maintains a list in the back of their mind, hoping their spouse will perform. Yet this only leads to anger, bitterness and frustration. When expectations are not met, conflict only grows.

God’s plan for us is just the opposite. He wants each of us to forsake our own desires and live for Christ, not ourselves.

Source: “Putting Jesus First” by Cheryl Scuggs

KEY VERSE

Proverbs 5:18 (NKJV)

*Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice with the wife of your youth.*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 6:33-34; Psalm 121, 127:1

Center Your Marriage on Jesus

1. The article on the cover discusses putting Jesus first in a marriage. Why should Jesus be the center of a marriage?
2. How can a married couple put Christ first in their relationship?

Tuesday: I Peter 3:10; Genesis 2:24; Matthew 18:15; I Cor. 14:33

Communicate Daily With Your Spouse

3. What do today's readings tell us about communication in a marriage?
4. If you are married, what words would you use to describe communication within your marriage? What words would you use to describe your communication with God?

Wednesday: Proverbs 6:24-26; I Thessalonians 4:3-4

Create Boundaries in Your Marriage

5. What boundaries do you have in your life to help you maintain purity?
6. What boundaries does a successful marriage need besides ones for sexual temptation?

Thursday: Galatians 5:15; I Cor. 13:4-5; Ephesians 5:21-33

Compromise Your Preferences for Your Spouse

7. What do today's readings teach us about a marriage relationship?
8. If you are single, what are some needs you would have from a prospective spouse? What are some preferences? What's the difference?
9. If you are married, why is compromise important? What are some areas you need to compromise about?

Friday: Mark 10:6-9; Colossians 3:13,19; Genesis 2:18-2:25

Commit to Your Spouse for a Lifetime

10. What can we learn from today's scripture readings?
11. Why is forgiveness important for a marriage?
12. What is God's plan for marriage? Why is His plan best?