



A <u>perfect</u> marriage isn't possible, but a <u>great</u> marriage is.			
What does a great marriage look like?			
So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves <a and="" debbie="" entrusts="" first="" god="" href="https://www.new.new.new.new.new.new.new.new.new.</td></tr><tr><td>Your marriage is <u>under</u> <u>attack</u></td></tr><tr><td>The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. <i>John 10:10</i></td></tr><tr><td>Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. <i>Ephesians 6:13</i></td></tr><tr><td>You have to <u>fight</u> for a great marriage!</td></tr><tr><td>1. Be a <u>God</u> - <u>centered</u> spouse.</td></tr><tr><td>[Unrealistic expectations have] led us to a point where we expect one person to meet an impossible volume of needs. Mary Laner</td></tr><tr><td>I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken. Psalm 62:1-2</td></tr><tr><td>2. Invest your <u>time</u> and <u>focus</u>.</td></tr><tr><td>" is="" kidwell<="" primary="" relationship="" spouse="" td="" the="" with."="" you="" your="">			
<u>God</u> , <u>Spouse</u> , <u>Everyone/Everything else</u>			
3. Fight well.			
Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool. <i>Ecclesiastes 7:9</i>			
Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be			
quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. James 1:19			
"Your wife is a piece of fine china in a gorilla's hand." Bill Miller			
Set <u>ground</u> <u>rules</u> and <u>expectations</u> .			
"Do, or do not. There is no try." Yoda, Grand Master of the Jedi Order			
I will fight for			

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY 1Thess. 1:1-2:9	MONDAY 1 Thess. 2:10-3:13	TUESDAY 1 Thess. 4:1-5:3	
this week	october 9	october 10	october 11	
WEDNESDAY 1 Thess. 5:4-28	THURSDAY 2 Thess. 1:1-12	FRIDAY 2 Thess. 2:1-17	SATURDAY 2 Thess. 3:1-18	
october 12	october 13	october 14	october 15	
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Ephesians 5:33				





For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

A perfect marriage isn't possible, but a great marriage is. A great marriage looks like a husband loving his wife as himself, and a wife respecting her husband. A great marriage will sometimes feel like a battle, but it's definitely worth the fight.

Discussion Questions

1. Most all of us have been touched personally by failed a marriage – personal divorce, divorced parents, other family members, coworkers, neighbors, or friends. Read John 10:10. What tactics have you seen Satan use to steal the love, joy, and respect out of marriage relationships?

Our natural tendency is to be "me-centered." How does this tendency lead us to create unrealistic expectations for others? Read Psalm 62:1-2. In a marriage, how should a God-centered person respond when expectations aren't met?

2. Great marriages require an investment of time and focus. What are some specific investments of time you believe are critical in a great marriage relationship? Why do these investments make a difference?

The proper order for marriage is God first, spouse second, and everything else third. Share an example of someone you know who has gotten this right. Why is it important to get this order prioritized correctly?

3. Former President, Ronald Reagan said, "Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means." Why is it so important that husbands and wives learn and commit to "fight well?"

Read James 1:19. This passage lists some ground rules married couples must have when faced with conflict. What are some other ground rules husbands and wives should have in place to make sure they fight well?

4. Marriages are under attack. As believers in Christ, our responsibility is to be ready to fight for the kinds of marriage that God desires. What is at stake if Christian couples don't fight for a great marriage?

Small Group Questions Continued

Marrieds: What specific steps will you take toward...

- ...becoming a God-centered spouse?
- ...investing time and focus into your marriage?
- ...creating ground rules to ensure fighting well?

Unmarrieds: After listening to a talk on how to have a great marriage, what specific steps will you take toward becoming a God-centered spouse who will fight for a great marriage?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

This coming week, I'm praying for:

OUR CHURCH

Ask your small group leader about serving opportunities at Emmanuel. We need help with the host team, Children's Ministry, production team and Student Ministry teams.

OUR COMMUNITY

Prepare lunch for volunteers building a house with Habitat for Humanity on October 14. Contact Jim Gearries at jgearries@eclife.org

OUR WORLD

Collect "dorm type items" for Hope Road Nicaragua that will be given to students living in Nicaragua the week of October 16-23. Drop these items off at the Info Desk. Would you also commit to praying for the members going, the communities they will be serving, and all the people they will encounter!

Action Step Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming wee	k.
My action steps are	
I'm accountable for	, and their action steps are
My memory verse is	