

Michael Kast

How can we have a marriage that thrives, not just survives?

1. Romance Takes Over (Genesis 2:20-25)

Just like Adam and Eve, every marriage begins with romance.

2. Reality Sets In (Genesis 3:1-7, 12)

Just like Adam and Eve, we have to make choices every day in order to move our marriage forward.

Your spouse is not the grind of life.

God gave you your spouse to help you make it through the grind of life.

Formula for a Thriving Marriage

Honor your spouse.

Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and the sexually immoral. *Hebrews 13:4*

How will you honor your spouse?

Enjoy life with your spouse.

Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun- all of your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in our toilsome labor under the sun. *Ecclesiastes 9:9*

How will you enjoy life with your spouse?

Prioritize your spouse.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh. *Genesis 2:24*

How will you prioritize your spouse?

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Romans 8:22-39	MONDAY Romans 9:1-21	TUESDAY Romans 9:22-10:13
this week	july 24	july 25	july 26
WEDNESDAY Romans 10:14-11:12	THURSDAY Romans 11:13-36	FRIDAY Romans 12:1-21	SATURDAY Romans 13:1-14
july 27	july 28	july 29	july 30
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Genesis 2:24			



For Group Discussion

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

Check-in

Last Week's Action Step

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

Introduction

There's no such thing as a perfect family, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't strive for it. A healthy family begins with a healthy marriage. Unfortunately, too many marriages are not healthy. In the Bible, we see the first marriage had its ups and downs, but hopefully we can learn from the successes and failures of Adam and Eve as we relate to our own {im}perfect family.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever fallen in love? Describe what it was like when you were in the "romance phase" of your relationship. What emotions did you feel? What were some of the things you did to profess your love?
2. Read Genesis 3:8-12. When God asks Adam for an explanation, Adam blames Eve. After you've been married for a while, it can be easy to believe your spouse is the source of your issues. Have you experienced this for yourself, or seen it play out in a relationship of someone you know? If so, what was the result? What impact did it have on the relationship?
3. Michael shared three key ideas for building a marriage that thrives and not just survives – honor your spouse, enjoy life with your spouse, and prioritize your spouse.

(Married) – Using the space provided, list some of the ways your spouse is already engaged in these ideas toward you. Share at least one of each with the group, and tell them how it makes you feel when you notice your spouse making this effort.

(Single) – Use the space provided to list ways you've seen married couples engage in each of these areas toward each other. As you share these observations with the group, tell what made you take notice of this behavior, and how you feel it impacted the relationship of the couple you observed.

Honor -

Enjoy life -

Prioritize -

Small Group Questions Continued

4. Read Hebrews 13:4, Ecclesiastes 9:9, and Genesis 2:24.

(Married) – What specific steps can you take this week to honor your spouse with the words you say and things you do? What specific steps will you take this week to enjoy life with your spouse? How will you remind yourself to prioritize your spouse this week?

(Single) – This week, what steps will you take to put these three key ideas into your heart and mind so you are prepared for a thriving marriage? How will you share these Biblical principles with those around you who could benefit from knowing God's design for marriage?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

Outreach: Groups in Action

OUR CHURCH

To ensure our safety and protection, we need volunteers to help with our medical response and security teams. The Franklin campus needs both medical response and security team volunteers. The Greenwood campus needs additional security volunteers, as well. Contact Eric Laehle at elaehle@eclife.org.

OUR COMMUNITY

Shepherd Community is in need of the following items for back to school supplies: 1" binders, glue sticks, mini white boards, and dry erase markers. Drop any items off to the Outreach or Information Desks.

OUR WORLD

Please pray for the Emmanuel team returning from Haiti this weekend. This has been an action packed week for the team which included a visit with those impacted by Project La Gonave. Keep up with our team through photos and updates on Facebook. Like our page: Emmanuel Church- Impact: Outreach.