

A Better Home THE BLUEPRINT

Here is a Daily Devotional to enable you to make the most out of this sermon.

November 10: God's Design for Us.

Read Genesis 2:21-25.

- What spoke to you the most from the sermon?
- Ask your partner this simple question, "WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?" Allow him or her to answer any way he or she wants to. As he or

- she replies, listen. Do not react. Learn. Do not correct.
- Discuss the following statement honestly. Talk with each other about your responses. "When I spend time with you, I feel uninhibited, unashamed, authentic, and amazing."
 - a) Always b) Never c) Sometimes d) I don't know.
- How does Genesis 2:25 challenge your view of vulnerability in marriage? What areas in your marriage need a return to God's original plan? What practical step can you take this week to strengthen your bond?

Home Building Prayer: Thank God for your spouse. Ask Him to help you grow together in your marriage and to go back to God's original plan as seen in Genesis 2:25.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

"God is the CREATOR of marriage. Therefore, we must submit to His plan for marriage."

November 11: Love in Action.

Read 1 John 3:18-24. Love is more than words — it's consistent action.

- How do you express love beyond words in your marriage?
- What hinders you from giving love freely to your spouse? How can you better serve your spouse's needs before your own?
- How can your love reflect God's love to others around you?
- Love is characterized by giving and not getting. Do you love your spouse just with words or in action as well?

This week, attempt to do at least three of these five things for each other.

- 1. Find out your spouse's love language and be intentional about loving them in a way they appreciate.
- 2. Give your spouse REAL Love Notes.
- 3. Hug and kiss your spouse every day. Hug and kiss every time you leave one another and every time you return to each other "just because."
- 4. Talk to your spouse. Spend at least 15 minutes each day in conversation not related to running your lives.
- 5. Give your spouse a foot rub, or massage, or something you know your partner really desires.

Home Building Prayer: Make Philippians 2:3-5 your prayer.

Consider the interest of your spouse above your own interest.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:"The gift of love is God's, but the choice to love is ours."

November 12: Communicating with Grace.

Read James 1:19-26; Ephesians 4:29. Healthy marriages are built through honest, gracious communication.

- How often do you feel misunderstood by your spouse, and why? Which one of you talks the most? Which one of you argues the most?
- When you feel misunderstood, do you shut down? Run? Keep

- talking? Call someone else? What can you do to communicate with more patience and empathy?
- How does God's Word shape the way you handle disagreements? Are there words you need to apologize for or restore? How can you invite God into your daily conversations?

Home Building Prayer: Make Romans 12:18 your prayer. Ponder over Ephesians 4:29 and make it your prayer.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

"If you fix the right things, the right things will fix everything."

November 13: Speaking the Truth in Love.

Read Ephesians 4:14-16, 25. God's blueprint for communication blends both honesty and compassion. When couples courageously share truth with humility, healing begins, and unity deepens.

- Is it easier for you to "speak the truth in love" or do you tend to "cover the truth with silence"? Why?
- How can you express difficult truths with grace? What's one truth you need to lovingly share this week?
- How can you respond well when your spouse shares truth with you? What new habits can you form to make truth normal in your marriage?
- Tell your spouse the truth about the following:
 - 1. "It's hard to talk to you when..."

- 2. "I really don't appreciate when you..."
- 3. "I feel most valuable when you..."

Home Building Prayer: Pray that you will both speak the truth in love and glorify God in your marriage. Pray you will both accept the truth with a good attitude and take practical steps towards a positive change in your behavior.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

"You overcome the problems in your relationship by focusing on your purpose together."

November 14: Building with Wisdom.

Read Proverbs 12:17-19. Every strong marriage is built on wisdom — not emotion or luck.

- Why do you think it's sometimes difficult to tell your spouse the truth about how you feel — even when it's good?
- What kind of environment makes it easier for you and your spouse to be open and honest with each other?
- How does honesty strengthen emotional intimacy in your marriage?
- How can you invite God into your daily decisions as a couple?
- In what ways have you seen God's wisdom strengthen your marriage? When was the last time you expressed genuine appreciation for your spouse and how did it impact them?

- Tell your spouse the truth about the following;
 - 1. "What I most appreciate about you is your..."
 - 2. "What I haven't told you but I need to tell you is..."
 - 3. "When I think about our future together, I feel..."

Home Building Prayer: Pray for love as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to be exhibited in your home.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

"If your home is not identified by its purpose, then it will be identified by its problems."

November 15: Pursuing God Together.

Read Proverbs 23:18, Psalm 37:4, & Matthew 6:33. The healthiest marriages are not built on feelings, but faith.

- Name three expectations you had about marriage. Have you seen them fulfilled? Why or why not?
- How did your family of origin influence your expectations of marriage? What other influences played a part?
- Who or what was the biggest influence on your marriage, either positive or negative? Give reasons for your answer.
- How can you intentionally seek God together as a couple? What's one spiritual goal you can pursue together this week?

Home Building Prayer: Seek God first, and delight in Him. Trust Him to fulfill His promise to you and give you the desires of your heart.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

"To get to God's promise you have to follow God's path. You need God's SAY in who you SEE."

November 16: Marriage for God's Glory.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:28; Galatians 6:9-10; Revelation 4:11. Marriage is not for our pleasure alone but for God's glory.

What's the purpose of marriage?
 For your pleasure or for God's glory?

- What do you think is the biggest contributing factor to the myth that marriage will make us happy?
- What is one disappointment you have had in your marriage? How did you come to accept it?
- What do you think disappoints most women in their marriages? What disappoints most men?
- What disappointments has God used to grow your marriage?
 What has marriage taught you about God's character?

Home Building Prayer: Pray for grace to support each other throughout the changing seasons of your marriage. Pray that you will not give up, and that you will receive your reward as promised in Galatians 6:9. Pray that God's purpose for marriage will be fulfilled in your home.

Pastor Whitcomb's Building Tip:

"Christian marriage is not about <u>AVOIDING</u> something – it's about <u>BECOMING</u> something."

DO YOU NEED COUNSELING?

Book an appointment:

Rev. Adeline Mensah | 026 750 5001

adelinemensah@agapehouseghana.org

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