

KINGDOM

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# MARRIAGE

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CONVERSATIONS



REFLECTING  
THE GOSPEL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16  
8:00 AM–12:30 PM



# SCHEDULE

8:00 am Doors Open & Breakfast

8:15 am Childcare opens

8:30 am Session 1: Sacrificially Loving

9:30 am Session 2: Beautifully Broken

10:25 am Break

10:40 am Date Night Challenge

10:50 am Session 3: Abundant Grace & Forgiveness

12:30 pm Closing

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

– Ephesians 5:1-2

# SACRIFICIALLY LOVING

SESSION ONE  
Hanibal Rodriguez

## NOTES

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# SACRIFICIALLY LOVING

## TALK TO EACH OTHER

Using the definition of sacrificial love, how are you most naturally demonstrating it in your relationship?

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What about sacrificial love is most difficult for you?

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Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

– 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

# BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN

SESSION TWO  
Sergio & Rosita Villanueva

## NOTES

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# BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN

## TALK TO EACH OTHER

How do you see your “brokenness” come out most in your marriage? Circle a few that apply or write others that come to mind.

Self-righteousness  
Blame Bickering Lying  
Shaming Obscene Words  
Sexual Temptation  
Bitterness Apathy  
Pride Avoidance  
Jealousy Stubbornness  
Addictions Self-centeredness  
Laziness Anger

“I am my biggest marital problem.”

– Paul David Tripp

# DATE NIGHT CHALLENGE

Kyle & Joy Reschke

Find a time and place to connect. Here are some questions to help guide your conversation.

## CHECK-IN QUESTIONS

### LOOK BACK

What are the things we can celebrate as a couple?

How has God worked in recent months?

What are the ways we are seeing each other grow?

### LOOK AT EACH OTHER

How is God moving in your life right now?

What are you excited about?

What are you anxious or worried about?

What are ways I can best encourage and serve you right now?

### LOOK AHEAD/DREAM

What are you excited for in the coming months?

What are some goals we should set for our family, relationships, finances, etc.?

## NOTES

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# DATE NIGHT FUN!

Having fun is one of the best ways for couples to draw closer to one another. We hope that you will take the time to laugh, make memories and connect with one another.

Over a meal together, play **Would you rather?**

## Instructions

1. Start to play this game after you have ordered your food.
2. Take turns asking and answering the questions below.
3. Pick one of the two options and give your reason for picking that option.

## Questions for your Wife

**Would you rather** go for a walk outside together or sit and drink coffee together?

**Would you rather** be stuck on an island alone or with someone who talks non-stop?

**Would you rather** have 24 hours away by yourself or with your girlfriend(s)?

**Would you rather** be a giant hamster or a tiny rhino?

**Would you rather** I go “all out” for your birthday or Christmas?

**Would you rather** go into the past and meet your ancestors or into the future and meet your great-great grandchildren?

## Questions for your Husband

**Would you rather** have 24 hours away by yourself or with your buddies?

**Would you rather** ride a roller coaster for 24 hours straight or eat nothing but Spam for three days?

**Would you rather** give up the internet/email or coffee/tea for a week?

**Would you rather** be a ninja or a pirate?

**Would you rather** have a reputation as someone who is “smart” or being as someone who is “funny”?

**Would you rather** have a pause or a rewind button in your life?

# ABUNDANT GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

SESSION THREE  
Grant & Anne Garnett

## NOTES

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[illegible]

# ABUNDANT GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

## TALK TO EACH OTHER

Is it hard for you to receive grace? Extend grace? And why?

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Is there anything you plan to start or stop as a result of what we learned this morning?

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“What makes a great marriage—  
two great forgivers.”

– Billy Graham

# 30 SECONDS TO BLESS AND INVEST IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Sergio Villanueva

## YOU ONLY NEED 30 SECONDS TO:

- Give your spouse a deep hug.
- Respond to your spouse in a gentle way.
- Focus your mind in order to pay attention to the conversation.
- Decide to do now for your spouse what only takes two minutes to do.
- Give your spouse a compliment.
- Look your spouse in the eyes and tell them you love them.
- Pray a prayer of gratitude for your spouse.
- Admit when you're wrong and stop justifying yourself.
- Hold hands with your spouse while you're seated.
- Pray over your marriage.



## NEXT STEPS

Marriage was created by God Himself, and He cares intimately about your marriage! But like anything important, good marriages don't just happen, they require intentionality. We want to help your marriage thrive!

What commitment are you making to your spouse, and/or to God, as a result of the last session or the morning?

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## CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

### DIG DEEPER: SACRIFICIALLY LOVING

Given what we heard and discussed together, what do you most need from me this next week?

Do you need something more?

Something less?

Something new?

Something we've discussed before?

## **DIG DEEPER: BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN**

Admit your brokenness and inability to love your spouse like God loves you. To begin this step, ask God to help you see the areas of your life that are negatively affecting your marriage.

Psalm 139:23-24 is a great example of how to do this.

Then, do the following exercise.

For each topic below regarding your marriage, ask God to help you see and record specific examples of how you have been:

Resentful

Selfish

Prideful

Lazy

Controlling

Critical

## **DIG DEEPER: ABUNDANT GRACE & FORGIVENESS**

Consider an area where you can extend grace to your spouse, write it down, and ask God to help you do it.

Has it been difficult to forgive your spouse for a specific offense against you? If yes, why? Commit to praying through this with the Lord over the next week.



For additional marriage resources,  
scan the QR code.

# PRAYING TOGETHER CHALLENGE

If you do not already pray together regularly, we want to challenge you to do so for the next 30 days.

Spiritual intimacy flourishes when couples connect, communicate, and share things with each other and God. If you have not been praying together as a couple, it can feel awkward in the beginning. A good analogy to remember is learning to drive a stick shift car. At the beginning it is really hard to learn how to get out of first gear but eventually you get better at it, and it is not as difficult to get out of second, third, etc.

It may be helpful to try the devotional book *Two Hearts Praying As One* by Dennis and Barbara Rainey. It will give you 30 days of things to pray for together. Another approach is to each write out what you would like to pray about and read it to each other. This is very helpful if you come from backgrounds where praying aloud was not a habit.

Find 10 minutes at a time when you can both commit to pray together when you will be free from interruptions.

## REWARDS OF PRAYING TOGETHER

The biggest reward of praying together is that you get on God's agenda rather than trying to get God on your agenda. The joy of your relationship and intimacy with the Lord and each other will grow richer as you share more of yourself with each other and with the Lord.

Praying together will:

- Help you to prioritize your relationship with the Lord and each other.
- Help you keep the other person more important than yourself.
- Help dissipate anger. It is hard to stay mad and bitter when you are praying with and for each other daily.
- Help you cast your cares on the Lord.
- Share in the events, joys and burdens of each day as you pray over them together.

WE BELIEVE THAT **EVERY** MARRIAGE  
IS MEANT TO BE ENJOYABLE,  
FULFILLING, AND ENERGIZING.

## HOW'S YOURS?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Whether you'd rate your marriage as a 2 or a 10—or somewhere in between—re|engage is a great next step for those who want to experience marriage at its best. Consider making your next step **re|engage!**

Our re|engage community offers a safe place to be intentional about working on your relationship. Come see firsthand what re|engage has to offer! Our next session begins Thursday, January 23, 6:30-8:30 pm. Kids Crew is also available for children ages 6 weeks to 8th grade.

### WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT **RE|ENGAGE**

Re|Engage has helped me see how I contribute to the problems in my marriage. It has also given us many tools to help deal with issues that cause conflicts.

I have come to better understand what marriage is and what God intends from us. Love and grace are both necessary.

We loved the community experience of many couples coming together to work on and improve their marriages.

[wheatonbible.org/reengage](http://wheatonbible.org/reengage)

PREPARATION  
FOR

# Marriage



**Do you know someone who is seriously dating or engaged? We have a class for them!**

The Bible has lots to say about how husbands and wives are to live together as God designed.

Our 7-week **Preparation for Marriage** class includes topics like marriage God's way, roles in marriage, finances, communication, sex and family planning, expectations, and forgiveness plus small group "marriage mentors".



# VOWS

## HUSBAND

I [*his name*], take you [*her name*] to be my wife [*again*],  
To have and to hold you from this day forward,  
In good times and in bad times,  
When we have much, or we have little,  
In sickness and in health,  
I will love you, protect you, understand you, and cherish you.  
To this, I pledge myself truly with all my heart.

## WIFE

I [*her name*], take you [*his name*] to be my husband [*again*],  
To have and to hold you from this day forward,  
In good times and in bad times,  
When we have much, or we have little,  
In sickness and in health,  
I will love you, honor you, understand you, and respect you.  
To this, I pledge myself truly with all my heart.

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