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Day 1:

Marriage: A Call to Adventure

Devotional

When we think about marriage, our minds often drift to romantic comedies, fairy tale endings, and comfortable companionship. But what if marriage is actually something far more thrilling and purposeful? What if it's not about finding someone to make life easier, but about finding someone to make life more meaningful? Abraham's story begins with God calling him to leave everything familiar and venture into the unknown. This wasn't a call to comfort—it was a call to adventure. Similarly, marriage isn't about settling into a predictable routine. It's about two people choosing to walk together into God's unknown plans, trusting Him for the journey ahead. Think about the most meaningful experiences in your life. Were they the easy, comfortable moments, or were they the times when you stepped out in faith, faced challenges, and grew stronger? Marriage operates on the same principle. When we approach it as an adventure with Jesus at the center, we discover purposes and joys we never imagined possible. The adventure isn't always easy. Abraham faced uncertainty, made mistakes, and sometimes wondered if God had forgotten His promises. But through it all, God was faithful, and the adventure led to blessings beyond Abraham's wildest dreams. Your marriage adventure—whether you're married now or preparing for marriage—can be the same kind of faith-filled journey.

Bible Verse

'The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.'" - Genesis 12:1

Reflection Question

How might viewing marriage as an adventure with Jesus change the way you approach relationships, whether you're single, dating, or married?

Quote Marriage is a call to adventure with Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, help me to see marriage not as a comfortable escape from life's challenges, but as an exciting adventure with You at the center. Give me the courage to embrace Your calling, whether in singleness or marriage, and to trust You for the journey ahead. Amen.

Day 2:

Fighting Together, Not Against Each Other

Devotional

Every strong partnership requires clarity about who the real enemy is. In marriage, it's easy to fall into the trap of viewing your spouse as the opponent when conflicts arise. But what if the real battle isn't between husband and wife, but between the couple and the forces that want to destroy their unity? Abraham and Sarah faced this challenge repeatedly. When fear gripped Abraham and he lied about Sarah being his sister, they could have turned on each other. When Sarah struggled with infertility and suggested Abraham have a child with Hagar, they could have

blamed each other for the resulting complications. Instead, they learned to navigate their failures together, understanding that their real enemy wasn't each other—it was anything that threatened God's plan for their lives. In marriage, couples face external pressures: financial stress, health challenges, family conflicts, and cultural messages that undermine commitment. They also face internal battles: pride, selfishness, fear, and unmet expectations. The key is recognizing that these are the real enemies, not your spouse. When you fight for each other instead of against each other, something beautiful happens. You become a team. You start celebrating each other's victories and supporting each other through defeats. You begin to see your spouse not as the source of your problems, but as your partner in overcoming them.

Bible Verse

'Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.' - Genesis 15:6

Reflection Question

What battles in your life (or future marriage) require you and your spouse to stand together rather than against each other?

Quote We don't fight each other. We fight for each other.

Prayer

Father, help me to identify the real enemies in my relationships and to stand with my spouse (or future spouse) against anything that threatens our unity. Give us wisdom to fight for each other, not against each other. Amen.

Day 3:

When Promises Feel Like Funerals

Devotional

Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for God's promise of a child. Imagine the monthly disappointment, the growing doubt, the whispered conversations about whether they had misheard God's voice. Each passing month felt like a funeral for their hope, yet they continued to believe. Marriage often involves similar seasons of waiting and disappointment. You might wait for your spouse to change a frustrating habit, for financial breakthrough, for healing in your relationship, or for dreams you've shared together to finally come true. These seasons test your faith to the limit and challenge everything you believe about God's goodness. But here's what Abraham and Sarah's story teaches us: God's timing isn't our timing, but His faithfulness never wavers. Even when Sarah laughed at the impossibility of God's promise, even when Abraham's faith wavered, God remained committed to His covenant. The waiting wasn't wasted time—it was preparation time. During these difficult seasons, it's crucial to celebrate small victories along the way. Maybe your spouse remembered something important to you. Maybe you had a breakthrough conversation. Maybe you simply made it through another difficult day together. These aren't insignificant moments—they're evidence that God is still working, even when the bigger picture remains unclear. The war is already won through Christ, even when individual battles feel overwhelming.

Bible Verse

'Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"' - Genesis 17:17

Reflection Question

What promises from God are you waiting to see fulfilled in your marriage or future marriage, and how can you celebrate small victories while you wait?

Quote Every single month was a funeral for the promise.

Prayer

Lord, when Your promises feel delayed and hope feels distant, help me to trust in Your perfect timing. Give me eyes to see the small victories and the strength to keep believing that You are faithful to Your word. Amen.

Day 4:

The Honor of Ultimate Sacrifice

Devotional

Robertson McGilkin's story challenges everything our culture teaches about marriage. When his wife developed Alzheimer's disease, he resigned from his prestigious position as president of a seminary to care for her full-time for 13 years. When people expressed sympathy for his sacrifice, he corrected them: it wasn't a sacrifice—it was an honor. This perspective transforms how we understand marital commitment. Marriage isn't a contract based on what we receive; it's a covenant based on what we give. It's not about finding someone who makes life easier; it's about becoming someone who makes life better for another person. Abraham demonstrated this when he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, the son of promise, trusting that God would provide. The sacrifice wasn't ultimately required, but Abraham's willingness revealed the depth of his faith and commitment. Similarly, marriage calls us to a willingness to sacrifice our comfort, our preferences, and sometimes our dreams for the good of our spouse and the health of our relationship. This doesn't mean becoming a doormat or enabling unhealthy behavior. It means choosing love when love is difficult, choosing commitment when feelings fade, and choosing to serve when you'd rather be served. It means viewing your spouse's needs as opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love, not burdens to endure. When both spouses embrace this mindset, marriage becomes a beautiful contest of who can love more generously.

Bible Verse

'But God said to him, "No, your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him." - Genesis 17:19

Reflection Question

How can you shift from viewing marriage as what you can get to what you can give, and what specific sacrifices might God be calling you to make?

Quote I'm not sacrificing my life for Muriel. It's an honor to care for her. She has cared for me for more than four decades. Now it's my turn.

Prayer

God, help me to see sacrifice in marriage not as a burden but as an honor. Transform my heart to find joy in serving my spouse (or future spouse) and to view their needs as opportunities to reflect Your love. Amen.

Day 5:

Choosing Your Battle Partner

Devotional

Not every relationship is meant to become a marriage, and not every attractive person is the right battle partner for life's spiritual warfare. The question isn't just "Do I love this person?" but "Will this person help me become more like Jesus, and will I help them do the same?" Abraham and Sarah weren't perfect people, but they were committed to God's purposes. Their relationship, despite its flaws and failures, ultimately brought them closer to God's heart and plan. This is the standard we should use when evaluating relationships: Does this person draw me closer to Jesus or further away? Physical attraction fades. Shared interests can change. Financial situations fluctuate. But a spouse who consistently points you toward Jesus, who fights for your spiritual growth, and who shares your commitment to God's kingdom—that's a partner worth waiting for and fighting alongside. If you're single, use this time to become the kind of person who attracts a Jesus-loving partner. Develop your own relationship with God, learn to fight spiritual battles on your own, and prepare yourself to be someone worth following into God's adventures. If you're married, remember that your spouse's primary job isn't to make you happy—it's to help you become holy. And your job is the same for them. When both spouses embrace this calling, marriage becomes a powerful tool for spiritual transformation and kingdom impact. The war is bigger than your daily circumstances. Choose your battle partner wisely.

Bible Verse

'The Lord will provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."
- Genesis 22:14

Reflection Question

Whether single or married, how are you actively becoming someone who draws others closer to Jesus, and what changes might you need to make in your relationships?

Quote The right spouse will bring you closer to Jesus. How they live and how they love you will bring you closer to Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, help me to prioritize spiritual compatibility over surface attractions. Whether I'm single or married, make me someone who consistently points others toward You and helps them grow in faith. Amen.