

Praying with your Spouse

A prayer guide - sexual intimacy

INTRODUCTION

In November we hosted the Sacred Marriage Conference and many of us made this commitment at the end of the conference:

"From this day forward, we're committed to fighting for our marriage. We promise to seek God for the wisdom, strength, and tenacity needed to create and sustain a sacred marriage with one and another. Whatever it takes, we're all in. We will remember that marriage wasn't created to make us happy, it was created to make us holy."

With this commitment, hundreds of us pinpointed one barrier that is keeping us from having a Christ centered marriage; these barriers have been prayed over ever since.

During the Revival Series we want to provide ways you, as couples, can be praying over these barriers, too.

We are providing couples with prayer prompts for each of the top nine barriers that were identified. We have offered ideas for how the issue may be impacting your home or a friend's home; a Scripture that speaks about this topic, a suggested action item and a prayer. Please use this time to pray, as husband and wife, over your marriage and the marriages of all those around us. Let us start a revival in our homes...a revival in our marriages...a revival in our families.

Each topic includes:

- Topic introduction.
- A passage that speaks about this topic.
- A practice or idea that may benefit your marriage.
- A prayer regarding the topic.

Sexual Intimacy

It seems like everything in our world has been sexualized in one way or another; except marriage. From a young age the world teaches us that there are no boundaries around sex. We can do whatever we want, with whomever we want, whenever we want - the only boundary comes in the form of consent. We are taught that happiness is a physical relationship away; and if we don't have someone to share the moment with, we can find a willing one-night partner online, find a virtual substitute on the internet, on the television, or in a book. The world also teaches us the only way to stop this flood of physical joy is to get married...in one short ceremony all our sexual gratification comes to a screeching halt! Yet, this view of sex doesn't align with God's Word.

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame." Genesis 2:24-25

This week, spend some special time with your wife or husband. Enjoy the gift that God has given us as married couples. The passage above says that Adam and Eve become one flesh and felt no shame. Adam and Eve engaged in physical intimacy and in emotional intimacy - the nakedness referred to in Genesis chapter two doesn't just mean without clothes; they are transparent in heart and mind as well. Spend time talking this week, sharing your heart, sharing your mind, and sharing your body. Although there sometimes reasons that being physically intimate is not possible or practical, it is a gift we should enjoy if we are able.

Father God, the deceiver is fighting hard to steal the gift of sex you have given us as husband and wife. He uses so many weapons to make this gift something that divides couples instead of bringing them together. Please protect our marriage from this attack. Helps us protect this gift, honor this gift and enjoy this gift together, in the way you designed it. Let this be something that brings us closer, intimately, and physically. In Jesus' name, Amen.