

Session Five Homework

Day One

1. Read Exodus 34:11-14. What is God's name according to this passage?
2. Do you think there is such a thing as "good" jealousy?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:2. What was Paul's concern for the Corinthian church?
4. How can our marriage or other relationships incite God's jealousy?
5. Read Colossians 3:15 and 2 Corinthians 5:14. What is the ultimate source of our peace and contentment?
6. Read Philippians 4:19. Who truly meets our needs?
7. Consider your marriage or significant relationships. How much of your contentment and comfort comes from that relationship compared to your relationship with the Lord?

Today's prayer:

God, help me to rely on you and you alone as my husband. Only you are my source of peace, contentment and strength. Thank you for putting my husband/others in my life to point me for my need to you. Thank you that you love me so much, that you are a jealous God!

Day Two

Start this lesson humming to yourself, "Some day my Prince will come...."

We have all bought into the idea that marriage and relationships with the opposite sex exist to make us happy.

1. Read Matthew 5:3-10. The beatitudes are translated "blessed" but the original word means "happy." Read the passage again and insert "happy" where it reads blessed. What does this tell us about the source of our happiness?

2. Are the beatitudes focused on what we get or what we give?

1. How does this challenge your perspective on marriage or other significant relationships?

2. Read Psalm 37:4 and 1:1-2 What is the source of our delight?

Read Psalm 34:8 We tend to think of seeking God as hard, boring or just too demanding, that he'll send us to Africa or make us do something we don't want to do. What does this verse say about that?

Today's prayer:

Thank you, Lord, that you are the source of my true happiness and the One who meets my needs. Thank you that what you want for me in life is good. Forgive me for looking to my husband or others for my happiness. Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit that I may delight in you and you alone.

Day Three

God can work in our marriages and other relationships to help them be healthy. *We* have a part to play in that though. Research, (yes, people research marriages) shows that four things undermine healthy, happy marriages. They are (1) escalating a fight (2) negative comments (3) invalidating comments and (4) withdrawal and avoidance.

1. Look at the following verses and see what the Bible says about these behaviors.

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 29:11

Proverbs 25:20, I Peter 2:17

Ephesians 4:25, Matthew 5:23-24

2. For today, consider your own marriage or other significant relationship. Which of these negative behaviors do you struggle with the most?

For today's prayer, read Colossians 3:5-14 several times. Pray those powerful words over your marriage or other key relationships.

Day Four

1. Read Luke 10:38-42. What does Jesus state about Mary at the end of verse 42?
2. Consider your marriage or another important relationship. What role do your choices make in that relationship?
3. Read Psalm 73:1-17. What is David frustrated about in the passage?
4. Do you ever feel this way about others and how they act? Can you think of a time when your husband or someone else significant in your life seemed to do well in life in spite of how they treated you?
5. Read verse 16-17 again. How did King David finally come to grips with his frustration?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What does this say about the perspective we are to have in tough times or difficult relationships?

7. Consider these two Biblical viewpoints: the choices we make and having an eternal perspective. How does this challenge you to respond when things are difficult in your marriage or other significant relationships?

Today's prayer:

Lord, I choose to put my marriage in your hands. You're in control, not me. Help me make choices in my relationships that bring you glory, and help me keep a "big picture" perspective when things are tough. I'm not in charge, Lord, and that's ok.

Day Five

1. Read that all familiar passage, I Corinthians 13:4-7. List all the things that love is NOT.
2. Read it again. List all the things that love IS.
3. In your marriage or other key relationships, which of the non-loving behaviors do you struggle with the most?
4. Which of the loving behaviors are easiest for you to convey?
5. Read I John 3:18. What is genuine love defined by?
6. Sometimes we have to behave a certain way even if we don't feel it. What actions or behaviors can you adopt which will show your love to your spouse?
7. If your marriage is in a good place, what loving actions can you think of that might take it to an even healthier and happier level?

Today's prayer:

Father, you are the all-loving God. Thank you for modeling the ultimate in sacrificial love through your Son, Jesus. Fill my heart with love toward the most important people in my life. Give me the spiritual boost I need to love when I don't feel like it. And give me the wisdom to know how to love others in a way that truly reflects your love.