

# *Married* **LIFE**

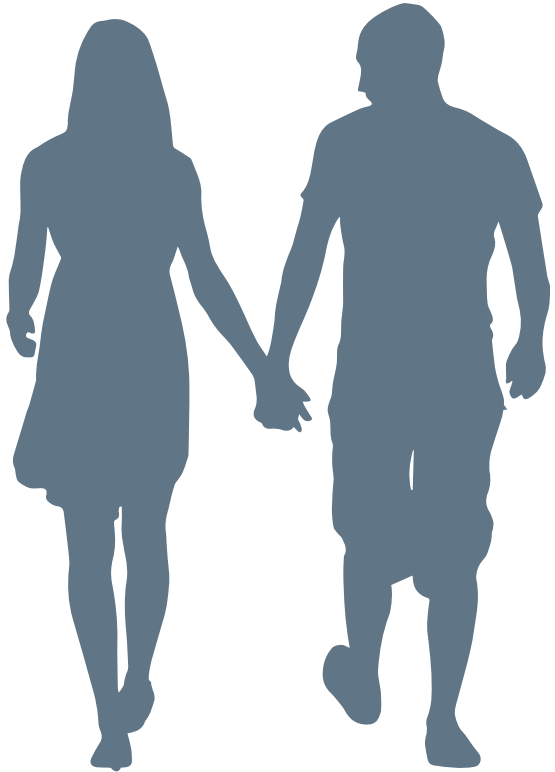
*Take a Step Closer*



*2020 Marriage Emphasis  
Small Group Discussion Guide*



*Take a Step Closer*



## FEBRUARY 2, 2020 MESSAGE

### Take a step closer by guarding and building your marriage.

(Marriage Pastor Brian Sanders)

Listen to the sermon here: [rpc.fm/sermon-library](http://rpc.fm/sermon-library)

#### PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. For the next seven days, read Psalm 139:23-24 and let the Holy Spirit reveal any sin in your life that has negatively impacted your marriage. Circle each sin that the Holy Spirit brings to mind on the handout "Spirit-Controlled Living vs. Sin Controlled Living."
2. For each sin you circled, complete the seven steps of repentance on the backside of the handout.

#### AS A COUPLE:

1. All of us fall somewhere on this continuum. Each of you place an X where you think you are as a couple.

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##### Disconnected

Moving through life married, but not together

##### Connected

Moving through life as a team

2. Ask your spouse which words and phrases jump off the page as you think about the times you have felt disconnected and the times you have felt connected or closer. Discuss your answers.

##### Disconnected:

- Roommates
- A business more than a marriage
- Apathy
- Taking your spouse for granted
- Walking on eggshells
- Invisible
- Married to a stranger
- Being stabbed in the back
- Too busy to connect
- Best years are behind us
- Never resolving an argument
- Hopeless
- Sexless marriage
- Not a safe environment to tell you how I feel

##### Connected:

- Intentional
- Hopeful
- You "get" me
- We're unstoppable together
- Romantic
- Best years are ahead of us
- We can fight and not kill our intimacy
- Trust
- I am my best self when I am with you
- Unbreakable bond
- I've got a friend for the journey
- Known and loved
- Sharing goals and dreams
- We can overcome our struggles
- Accepted for who I am
- My spouse has my back
- A safe environment to tell you how I feel

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. What were your main takeaways from the sermon?
2. What are the most significant contributors causing “drift” in your marriage (past and present)?
3. As you reflect back over the years, what are some of the best things you have done as a couple to guard your marriage? To build your marriage?
4. Read and discuss these verses in the context of your marriage.
  - Proverbs 4:23
  - 1 John 1:9
  - Matthew 7:3-5
  - Colossians 3:13
5. Share with the group what your next step(s) will be to guard your marriage and to build your marriage.

## GO DEEPER:

Complete the 90-day intentionality questionnaire at [rpc.fm/enrich](http://rpc.fm/enrich).

Attend a Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway. Get information at [rpc.fm/weekendtoremember](http://rpc.fm/weekendtoremember).

## FEBRUARY 9, 2020 MESSAGE

**Take a step closer by praying together as a couple.**

*(Worship Pastor Matt Byrd)*

*Listen to the sermon here: [rpc.fm/sermon-library](http://rpc.fm/sermon-library)*

### PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. As you think back on the past year, place an X on where your relationship is with God.

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**Disconnected**

**Connected**

2. Name some contributing factors to your current relationship with God.

3. List the biggest challenges keeping you from a more successful prayer life.

4. What is the biggest challenge that prevents you from praying consistently with your spouse?

### AS A COUPLE:

1. Share your personal reflections with each other

2. What can we do to improve our prayer life as a couple?

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. What were your main takeaways from the sermon?
2. What are your personal prayer challenges?
3. How do you think praying as a couple will impact your relationship with God? With your spouse?
4. Why do you think praying together can be a doorway to intimacy?
5. Read and discuss these verses in the context of your marriage.
  - James 5:16
  - Philippians 4:6-7
  - Jeremiah 33:3
  - Romans 8:26
6. Share with the group your action steps concerning praying together.

## GO DEEPER:

Commit with your spouse to read and work through the book *Two Hearts Praying as One* available through [familylife.com](http://familylife.com).

Attend a Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway. Get information at [rpc.fm/weekendtoremember](http://rpc.fm/weekendtoremember).

## NOTES:







## ***"A Fun Place to Grow Your Marriage"***

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