



Fight for Us

We've created this resource to help guide the two of you on this journey. This is your toolbox for the next 5 weeks of this series and it contains things to help you slow down and connect as a couple.

Here's what's in the box:

- a set of matching mugs (to intentionally sit down together and share a cup of coffee or tea)
- weekly envelopes to open after church each Sunday (to help you dig a little deeper)
- a set of conversation starter cards (use these on a date night, on the couch at home after dinner, or even when you're riding in the car together.)

All of these resources are designed to help you strengthen the most important relationship in your life, outside of your relationship with God.

Our prayer is that you be intentional with these resources, and especially with each other over the course of the next 5 weeks. Take the time to pause with each other, dig deep, lean in, and hopefully have some fun because your marriage is worth fighting for!



We would love to hear what God is doing in the life of your marriage, and come alongside to celebrate or to pray for you. If you would like to share your story with us, simply scan the code below.

For service times and locations - communitymi.org



WEEK *No* 0001

“MY BELOVED” – THIS IS WHAT GOD CALLS YOU. IT’S WHAT HE CALLS YOUR SPOUSE.

It’s fundamental – a foundational timeless, divine truth – that you would speak over your own life and the life of your spouse... I am, more than anything else, more than anything I can achieve or align with or identify as... foundational to my life... I am loved. God calls me ‘Beloved’.

As a couple, spend around 5 minutes in prayer (simply talking out loud with your spouse to God) doing two things:

1. Thank God that He has called you His Beloved; thank Him that He loves you.
2. Thank God for your beloved (your spouse) and express three things about how He created your spouse that you just can’t get enough of!

QUESTIONS

1. Was there a part of today's sermon that really stuck out to you? Was this the first time you've heard a sermon around the book of Song of Songs?
2. Have you ever thought of yourself as God's beloved? How does that change your perspective on your relationship, or lack thereof, with Him?
3. As a couple, what do you feel your collective relationship with God looks like? If you had to summarize it in three words, which words would you choose?
4. How does your view of Easter and all that Jesus went through leading up to it (His beatings, the mocking He endured, etc) change knowing that you are His beloved? Do you think about certain aspects of that differently?



WEEK ^{No}
0002

USE THIS PRAYER TEMPLATE WHEN YOU'RE PRAYING FOR YOUR SPOUSE.

Take 5 minutes together and for one another out loud, in front of each other, using the prayer written below as a guide. Feel free to change the language to match exactly what you and your spouse are facing together.

"Dear Jesus, I pray for spiritual protection over my wife, I ask you to be a shield over her life.

I pray you would bless her as a Mother and give her wisdom and patience with the kids, fill her with peace in our home when it gets chaotic, fill her with truth and words of life when she is teaching and shaping our children.

I pray my wife would have fulfilling friendships so that she can laugh and have fun with her friends.

I ask you to bless her work. Thank you for how she contributes and blesses our finances, I ask you to give her favor at work and all that she puts her hands to.

Help me to love my wife better and never forget the incredible blessing that she is in my life."

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between a marriage based on a contract and one based on a covenant? Read Song of Songs 8:6 together and talk about those ideas.
2. For what reasons do you think Satan hates marriage? How do you see God's Word being undermined in marriages today? Gen 3:1 "Did God really say...?" Have you ever experienced that in your marriage?
3. What does God's Word say about your marriage? What is God's Word over you and your spouse? Read Gen 1:27-28 together and talk about what that means for you and your spouse.
4. Take some time to pray for marriages in our church. Think specifically of relationships you know and you interact with everyday. No matter if they're struggling or if they're stronger than ever, take a few minutes together and pray as spouses together for marriages in and around Community Church.



WEEK *No*
0003

YOUR WORDS MATTER

This week's sermon was an incredible challenge to take responsibility for the words that we speak, and for couples to embrace humility and grace while finding a path forward when unloving words were spoken.

As a couple, take 5-10 minutes praying together out loud about how you use words within your marriage and your relationship. Have the courage to ask God for His forgiveness and guidance in your life where you haven't lived this out well. Then, thank God for that grace and the wisdom to live a more loving life.

If you need to, take some time together to apologize to each other for where unloving words have ruled your relationship. Alternatively, acknowledge together where loving words have won out between you and your spouse, and thank God for those times together.

QUESTIONS

1. Together as a couple, read James 3:3–12. Take notes and then talk about the power of our words in the context of marriage.
2. Without placing blame on another person, what can you take responsibility for over the years? How would you describe the tenor of your words when they have been uplifting or disheartening?
3. The sermon described ways in which we should never speak in the context of marriage. What way of speaking would you ban from your own mouth?
4. Find three life-giving words that you would use to describe your spouse and share them. If you are not married, find three life-giving words that you would like to see in your future spouse. Go ahead and publicly share those together.





WEEK *No*
0004

WATCH OUT FOR THE FOXES

It might feel awkward or uncomfortable to pray about sex. But why would we not communicate with God about it when He was the one who designed it?

As you reflect as a couple on this week's sermon, is there anything that stuck out to you that requires focused prayer? How can you better meet the needs of your spouse? How can you be a better lover of your spouse?

Spend 5-10 minutes praying together, thanking God for the gift of your spouse. Then, though it might feel awkward, pray that God would bless your physical intimacy with your spouse.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Song of Songs 2:15. What are the foxes? What do you think are the most damaging foxes for marriages in our culture today?
2. What foxes have done the most damage to marriages that you've witnessed?
3. What advice would you and your spouse give to newlyweds today? Are you taking your own advice, or is there a piece that you both need to live out better?
4. Try and assess the busyness quotient of your marriage. Have you become used to it or numb to that degree of activity/hurry? What ill-effect is it having in your home? What action can you take?



WEEK *No*
0005

YOUR LOVE SHOULD BE A REFLECTION OF HIS LOVE FOR US.

Song of Songs 8:7 (The Passion Version) "Rivers of pain and persecution will never extinguish this flame. Endless floods will be unable to quench this raging fire that burns within you. Everything will be consumed. It will stop at nothing as you yield everything to this furious fire until it won't even seem to you like a sacrifice anymore."

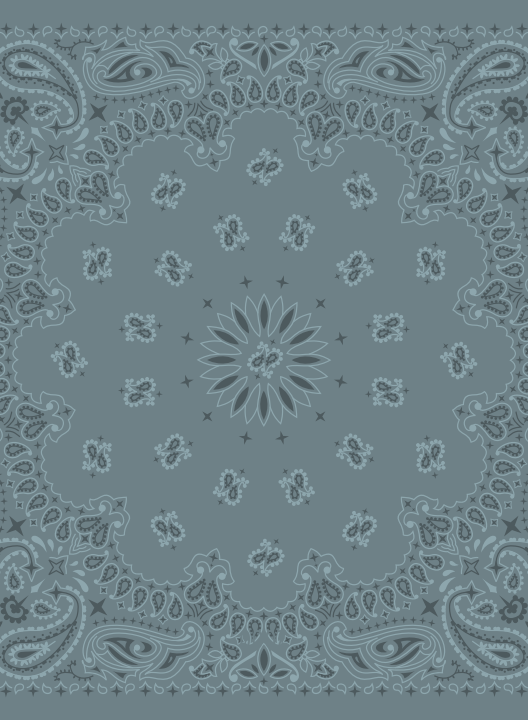
Reflecting on the verse, pray for 5-10 minutes out loud as a couple about the unique challenges you face in your relationship. Pray that the flame of love burns within both of you, unquenchable and eternal, nurturing and protecting it through forgiveness, understanding, and commitment.

Pray that God guides you together in making your love a reflection of His everlasting love, which knows no end.

QUESTIONS

1. In the context of marriage, how do you interpret the idea that rivers of pain and persecution will never extinguish the flame between spouses? How can this understanding strengthen the commitment to never forsake each other?
2. Forgiveness plays a crucial role in any marriage. How can the concept of endless floods being unable to quench the flame relate to the act of forgiving each other, even during challenges?
3. Marriage requires forging ahead together, even when faced with obstacles. How do you think couples can actively forge their bond to withstand the floods of life?
4. The idea of 'forever' is often associated with marriage vows. How can reflecting on this verse reinforce the understanding that the flame of love and commitment is meant to burn eternally within the union?
5. Sacrifice is often seen as a part of marriage. How can yielding everything to the flame of love within a marriage transform sacrifices into acts of devotion and strengthen the bond between spouses?





“LOOKING BACK TO OUR
EARLY DAYS, I’M SO GLAD WE
STUCK TOGETHER WHEN
_____,
AND WE COULD HAVE SPLIT.
WHAT WAS GOD DOING IN OUR
HEARTS IN THOSE DAYS?”

“YOU MAY NOT THINK I
NOTICE, BUT I SEE HOW
YOU _____ BEHIND THE
SCENES. THIS IS WHAT A
DIFFERENCE IT HAS
MADE: _____.”

"I APPRECIATE YOU AND
HOW YOU _____,
AND I LOVE WHEN YOU
_____."

LET'S

No
0003

TALK

“THREE ACTIVE THINGS
WE COULD DO THIS WEEK
TO WORK ON OUR
MARRIAGE ARE: _____.”

LET'S

No
0004

TALK

“I SEE GROWTH IN YOUR
LIFE IN THIS AREA,
SPECIFICALLY: _____.”

LET'S

No
0005

TALK

“MY BIGGEST HOPE FOR
OUR MARRIAGE RIGHT
NOW IS _____.”

LET'S

No
0006

TALK

“WHAT’S PRICELESS
ABOUT US AS A COUPLE
IS _____.
WHAT’S PRICELESS
ABOUT YOU IS _____.”

LET’S

No
0007

TALK

“HERE IS HOW I SEE
GOD’S IMAGE IN YOU:
_____.”

LET’S

No
0008

TALK

“ONE WAY YOU HAVE
HONORED ME THAT I
REMEMBER AND CHERISH
IS _____.”

LET'S

No
0009

TALK

“SOME WAYS WE CAN
PROTECT SEX WITHIN
OUR MARRIAGE FROM
DISHONOR OR
DISRESPECT MIGHT BE
_____.”

LET'S

No
0010

TALK

“WHEN HAVE YOU FELT
HONORED BY ME?”

LET'S

No
0011

TALK

“A SPECIFIC TIME YOU’VE
IMPRESSED ME WITH
YOUR HUMILITY IS _____.
THAT MADE ME FEEL
_____.”

LET’S

No
0012

TALK

“SOMETHING I
APPRECIATE ABOUT THE
WAY YOU LISTEN AND
COMMUNICATE WITH ME
IS _____. THAT
REALLY HELPS BECAUSE
_____.”

LET'S

No
0013

TALK

“WHEN YOU’RE HAVING A
GREAT DAY, I LOVE THE
WAY YOU _____.”

LET’S

No
0014

TALK

“SINCE WE’VE BEEN
MARRIED, ONE THING I’VE
NOTICED OR LEARNED
ABOUT MYSELF
REGARDING THE WAY I
HANDLE MONEY IS
_____.”

LET’S

No
0015

TALK

“WHEN WE LOOK AT OUR
BANK STATEMENTS,
KNOWING THAT OUR
TREASURE GOES WHERE
OUR HEARTS ARE, IT
SEEMS TO ME THAT OUR
HEARTS ARE GOING
_____.”

LET'S

No
0016

TALK

“I FEEL REALLY LOVED
AND SEEN WHEN _____.”

LET'S

No
0017

TALK

“A FEW SMALL NOTICES
OR ATTENTIVE ACTIONS
BY YOU THAT MIGHT
MAKE A HUGE
DIFFERENCE FOR ME ARE
_____.”

LET'S

No
0018

TALK

“WHEN WE’RE BOTH
SEPARATELY GETTING
CLOSER TO JESUS, I CAN
SEE A DIFFERENCE IN
OUR RELATIONSHIP
BECAUSE _____.”

“ONE THING I’VE
LEARNED ABOUT
MARRIAGE AND
RELATIONSHIPS FROM
SOMEONE IN AN ELDER
GENERATION IS _____.”

LET’S

No
0020

TALK

“SOMETHING I’VE
LEARNED ABOUT
RELATIONSHIPS FROM
SOMEONE IN A YOUNGER
GENERATION IS _____.”

LET’S

No
0021

TALK

“WHAT IF THE VERY
PLACES WE FEEL THE
MOST HOPELESS ARE THE
ONES WHERE GOD WANTS
TO BRING BLESSING?
WHAT WOULD THOSE
BLESSINGS LOOK LIKE?”

LET'S

No
0022

TALK

“ONE WAY I’D LIKE TO
STRENGTHEN AND
PRIORITIZE MY
RELATIONSHIP WITH
JESUS IS _____.”

LET’S

No
0023

TALK

“WHEN I ENVISION
GROWING OLD WITH YOU,
I LOOK FORWARD TO
_____.”

LET'S

No
0024

TALK

“WHEN WE FIRST MET,
THE THING I USED TO
DREAM ABOUT MY
FUTURE WITH YOU WAS
_____. NOW, THAT
THING IS _____.”

LET'S

No
0025

TALK