



GOING FURTHER: SUPPORT

LifeGroups

LifeGroups are small group environments where people seek to become more like Jesus for the purpose of being Jesus to the overwhelmed, under-resourced, and far away. You may browse a listing of LifeGroups at rushcreek.org and click on "Connect" or contact the LifeGroup office at lifegroups@rushcreek.org.

Re|Engage

We offer hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. Join us for this 16-week experience which includes a time of music, prayer, a teaching or testimony by a couple who has experienced victory in the midst of hard times, and small group time which follows a specified curriculum. Join us weekly or please email us at reengage@rushcreek.org.

Professional Christian Counseling

The Rush Creek Counseling Center provides Christ-centered professional counseling at low fees when compared to counseling services in the community. Therapy is tailored to the specific needs of the child, adolescent, adult, couples or family. Our offices are located at the Green Oaks campus. For more information, please visit rushcreek.org/counselingcenter or call us at (817) 704-6991.



The Intentional Husband



Tools For Men

BUILDING A GOD-HONORING MARRIAGE

No man plans to become part of a broken family or a miserable couple. We marry because we yearn for a life-long, thriving relationship. So, how can men become intentional about building a God-honoring marriage?

PRIORITY ONE: Discover God's Design for Marriage

We must understand that every marriage is intended to be a masterpiece reflecting THE marriage between God and His people. Marriage is the most frequent metaphor used in the Bible to describe God's relationship with His people. In fact, writing to the Ephesians, Paul called marriage a "profound mystery" because it is a picture of "Christ and the church."

PRIORITY TWO: Commit to a Covenant Marriage

Today's civil marriages are much like business contracts - easy to get into and easy to get out of. God's covenant with His people was a promise to remain eternally faithful even if His people weren't faithful in return. In covenant marriage, both spouses are committed for a lifetime - in sickness and health, for better or worse. They don't threaten divorce or consider it as an option.

PRIORITY THREE: Pursue a Passionate Marriage

Couples aren't supposed to just stick it out and find a way to make their marriage survive. God calls us to pursue a passionate, thriving marriage. The Song of Solomon expresses the kind of love, joy and celebration God designed for marriage. That passion is built on much more than infatuation and sexual desire. It is rooted in the physical, emotional and spiritual intimacy God created couples to experience as a foretaste of the eternal unity, communion and intimacy we can have with God.

PRIORITY FOUR: Become Heroic in Marriage

Christ made the ultimate sacrifice to rescue humanity. Writing to the Ephesians, Paul connected Christ's sacrifice directly to marriage: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25) and "Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands" (Ephesians 5:24). In other words, mutual submission to one another requires giving up our own interests to heroically serve the other person.

PRIORITY FIVE: Fight for Your Marriage

Every couple will mess up. Too often, however, they also choose to give up. Throughout scripture, God fights for His relationship with His people, remaining faithful in the face of unfaithfulness. He forgives again and again. No couple can avoid strife and arguments, but we can avoid giving the "devil a foothold" in our marriages by keeping short accounts and quickly restoring the relationship regardless of what happens.

PRIORITY SIX: Take Initiative

Men are called to move beyond passivity by taking initiative when it comes to nurturing a strong marriage. Take advantage of the Going Further ideas below to get started now.



GOING FURTHER: RESOURCES

Recommended Books:

It Starts A Home (by Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroepe) explains why marriage is a key path for our spiritual formation and provides practical advice for intentional couples.

Love and Respect (by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs) discusses a powerful biblical model for each spouse understanding and meeting the other's most deeply felt need.

The Five Love Languages (by Gary Chapman) describes how to discover and serve your spouse's unique love language.

A Celebration of Sex (by Dr. Douglas Rosenau) is a guide to enjoying God's gift of sexual intimacy.

Simply Romantic Nights Kit (from Family Life Ministries). Discover intimacy in a new light using a series of his/her date night ideas.