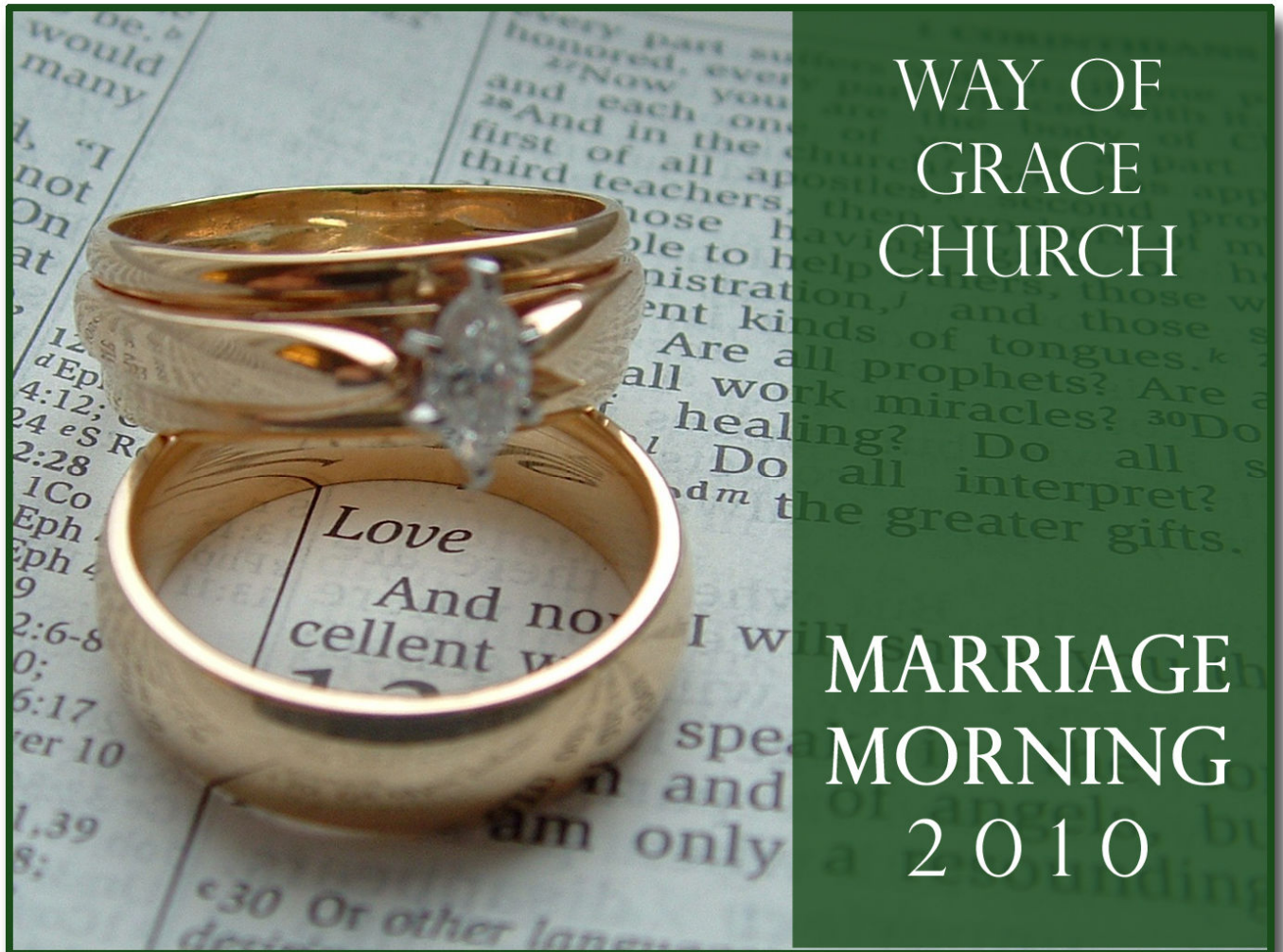


Way of Grace Church
PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK



WAY OF
GRACE
CHURCH

MARRIAGE
MORNING
2010

Saturday, October 23rd, 2010, Buckeye, Arizona

I, take you...to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.

-Traditional English Wedding Vows

welcome

We are so glad to welcome you to our *second annual* Way of Grace **Marriage Morning**.

Marriage is such a precious gift from God. But it can also be, at certain time, the most challenging relationship in our lives. There is no doubt that in the best of times and in the worst of times, all of us need God's help in our marriages.

You may have specific reasons you're here this morning, but here is what we're hoping to accomplish through our time together:

-To provide every married couple with the opportunity to think about and talk about their marriage in an intentional, constructive way. Not many couples do this regularly, or know how to do this. But it is so important.

-To explain what God, the designer of marriage, has communicated to us through Scripture about His desires for us as husbands and wives. Experiences, assumptions, and preferences often inform our marriages, but only God's word can provide our relationship with a solid foundation.

-To challenge couples toward a fresh commitment to one another by encouraging forgiveness, communication, and a new resolve to weather any storm through God's grace. All of us need to regularly revisit our vows and regularly recommit ourselves to the promises we made... "till death do us part".

It is our joy and responsibility as servants of God to build up marriages in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. He is the only hope for our lives, and thus, the only hope for our marriages. We hope our time together will not only explain this further, but also persuade or remind all of us of that truth, in such a way, that our marriages are truly strengthened.

Seeking His help with you,

Pastor Bryce Morgan

Pastor Jason Whitley

Elder Steve Bales

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schedule

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:05	Welcome/Intro
9:05-9:50	Session One
9:50-10:00	Knee-to-Knee Exercise #1
10:00-10:45	Session Two: Men's/Women's Breakout
10:45-11:00	Bathroom/Snack/Stretch Break
11:00-11:45	Session Three
11:45-11:55	Knee-to-Knee Exercise #2
11:55-12:00	Wrap Up/Final Encouragements



Session ONE:

Marriage for the Long Run

“Getting Off to a Good Start”

I. Running Off Course

A. What could possibly be wrong with the direction of our marriage?

1. A Christian marriage is not determined by _____ you worship, but _____ you worship (1 Corinthians 7:39).
2. Your marriage will never achieve true companionship without _____ (2 Corinthians 6:14).
3. A couple that has been saved by _____ has the resources for this race.

B. How do real Christian marriages run?

1. Marriage _____ will always fall short of the finish line.
2. _____ marriages can survive, not sing.
3. A _____-enabled marriage changes your view of your _____.
4. A _____-enabled marriage changes your view of _____ and your _____.

II. Running On Track

A. What's the right direction for a Christian marriage?

1. When you are not motivated by grace then a _____ - _____ mentality prevails. (Galatians 5:4-26)
2. Self-righteousness breeds _____ and selfish _____ in a marriage.
3. The antidote to self-righteousness is renouncing _____ to live by faith through grace.
4. Grace frees you and your spouse to pursue _____ deeds of love for one another and others.

B. How can we stride together?

1. By daily reminding yourself of your _____ condition without the gospel (Romans 5:17).
2. By focusing on _____ as your example of gracious living when you seek to fulfill your biblical role as a spouse (Husbands- Ephesians 5:25-27; Wives-1 Peter 3:1, cf. 2:21).
3. By remembering how _____ God has been in giving you a spouse (Proverbs 19:14).
4. By seeking to _____ your spouse in practical ways each day.

III. Running To Finish Well

A. Where does our stamina come from?

1. Your stamina comes from the example and completed _____ work of Christ (Hebrews 12:1-2).
2. He has guaranteed and secured the ultimate _____ of your race.
3. Then the goal of marriage is _____ Christ, not longevity or survival until the bitter end.

B. How important is it to set the right example?

1. Spectators are watching to see if _____ makes any real difference in your marriage (Hebrews 12:1).
2. The outcome of your marriage will affect other _____ running the same race.
3. The next _____ is encouraged to endure when your marriage is a shining example of the grace of Christ.

Knee to Knee Exercise #1: Take a few minutes as a couple and have each person share one or two ways in which they are guilty of steering the marriage “off course”. Each spouse should acknowledge their own failings. Instead of commenting on the other person’s confession (e.g. “Yep, you have failed that way.”), each spouse should respond by praying for the other. Pray that your spouse and your marriage would “run well” and “finish well” through the grace of Christ and for the glory of God. Use the inside of the back cover to write down these requests and commit to praying for your spouse in light of their struggles.



Session TWO: Men's/Women's Breakout

NOTES:



Session THREE:

Marriage for the Long Run

“Handling the Hurdles”

I. Clearing the High Hurdles

A. Hurdling Unforgiveness

1. Understanding _____ forgiveness is critical to clearing this hurdle (Luke 17:3-5).

a) *I will not bring this issue up to _____.*

b) *I will not bring this issue up to _____.*

c) *I will not bring this issue up to _____.*

2. Understanding _____ forgiveness is the ultimate test you've cleared it (Mark 11:25).

3. But, understanding the depth of your forgiveness by grace makes your forgiveness of your spouse _____ (Ephesians 4:32).

B. Hurdling Anger

1. It is possible to be _____ angry (Ephesians 4:26a).

2. But, even righteous anger can easily turn to unrighteous anger if not handled in a _____ and appropriate manner (Ephesians 4:26b).
3. Clearing sinful anger's hurdle is only possible when you realize that the full vent God's anger toward you is _____ without the cross (1 Peter 2:24-25, cf. 11).

C. Hurdling Disrespect

1. When a marriage has endured a history of hurtful words and actions the scars are more difficult to _____ (Proverbs 11:13; 12:18; 18:19).
2. Re-establishing trust in such a damaged relationship is more of a matter of reliant _____ than endangerment (1 Peter 4:19).
3. Every difficulty in your marriage is there to remind you of your need for _____ (Psalm 27:9).

II. Clearing the Low Hurdles

A. Hurdling Impatience

1. It is easy to identify the _____ in your marriage to be your spouse.
2. When you are impatient something is wrong in _____ (Romans 7:21-25).

(cont.)

3. Understanding that, by grace, God has been extraordinarily patient with you should cause you to search your own _____ (Romans 8:1).

B. Hurdling Irritability

1. Your _____ - _____ makes it easy for your spouse to feel minimized, trivialized and unimportant.
2. Your irritability is a form of _____ that makes it easy for your spouse to feel manipulated.
3. Your self-sufficient attitude makes it easy for your spouse to feel ignored and _____.

C. Hurdling Pride

1. When you are unwilling to be _____ you make it easy for your spouse to feel condemned and dismissed.
2. When you seek your own _____ you make it easy for your spouse to feel like an object and not a companion.
3. When you want to have the _____ you make it easy for your spouse to feel patronized and disrespected.

Knee to Knee Exercise #2: In light of our time together this morning, take a few minutes and each share two things: 1) one way you are thankful for your spouse, and 2) one practical way you can apply a principle that God revealed to you this morning in regard to strengthening your marriage.

Marriage: Book Resources

(many of these titles are available at the book table in the foyer)

For Couples:

When Sinners Say I Do by Dave Harvery (Shepherd Press)

Sweethearts for a Lifetime by Wayne Mack (P & R Publications)

Each for the Other by Bryan Chappell (Baker Book House)

The Christian Lover by Michael A.G. & Victoria Haykin (Reformation Trust)

What Did You Expect by Paul David Tripp (Crossway)

God, Marriage, and Family by Andrea J. Kostenberger (Crossway)

The Intimate Marriage by R.C. Sproul (P & R Publications)

Visionary Marriage by Ray Rhodes (Books That Nourish Publishers)

Sex and the Supremacy of Christ by John Piper, Justin Taylor (editors) (Crossway)

This Momentary Marriage by John Piper (Crossway)

Love That Lasts: When Marriage Meets Grace by Gary & Betsy Ricuccu (Crossway)

For Husbands:

The Exemplary Husband by Stuart Scott (Focus Publishing)

Sex, Romance, and the Glory of God by C.J. Mahaney (Crossway)

For Wives:

The Excellent Wife by Martha Peace (Focus Publishing)



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