

## Going Further - Resources

(Some are available at the Faith@Home kiosk)

### Recommended Books

#### It Starts At Home

by Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroope

This book helps parents understand the process of faith formation at home and a practical plan for becoming intentional.

#### The Marriage Masterpiece

by Al Janssen

This book unveils the beauty of God's design for every marriage.

#### Love and Respect

by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

This 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

This book describes how to discover and serve your spouse's unique love language.

#### A Celebration of Sex

by Dr. Douglas Rosenau

This book 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.

# The Intentional Husband

*Building a  
God-Honoring Marriage*



## Tools for Men

# The Intentional Husband

## *Building a God-Honoring Marriage*

*By Justin Frazier, Executive Pastor- Discipleship*

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 marriages 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 on the back of this brochure to get started now.