

# CONTENTS

<b>GENERAL SESSION 1</b> (Friday Evening) .....	1
<b>SATURDAY ACTIVITIES</b>	
Discussion Questions .....	3
Activity Ideas .....	13
<b>LADIES' SESSION</b> (Sunday Morning) .....	4
<b>MEN'S SESSION</b> (Sunday Morning) .....	6
<b>GENERAL SESSION 2</b> (Sunday Morning) .....	8
<b>GENERAL SESSION 3</b> (Sunday Evening) .....	11

Session video and  
audio available at  
**[gcm.li/ipromise](https://gcm.li/ipromise)** 



# I DO. SO WHAT?

General Session 1

God's View of the Marriage Covenant

## I. The definition of your marriage covenant.

Definition by word.

Definition by \_\_\_\_\_ .

Your marriage is a covenant of \_\_\_\_\_ .

*See Genesis 2:24; Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14.*

## II. The components of your marriage covenant.

*Vows.*

*Sign.*

*See Genesis 9:8-17.*

*Identity.*

Change of identity: two having one \_\_\_\_\_ .

*See Genesis 17:5, 15.*

Change of identity: two having one \_\_\_\_\_ .

*See Genesis 2:24.*

*Protection.*

*See Genesis 6:13-22; 7:23; 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:42; Acts 9:3-5.*

“PPP” → Present Partner Perfect.

### III. The importance of your marriage covenant. (Joshua 9:1-10:14)

Setting: Joshua 9.

vv 3-7 →

vv 8-15 →

v 16 →

vv 17-19 →

vv 20-27 →

Setting: Joshua 10.

vv 1-5 →

v 6 → What was the request of the men of Gibeon?

→ Why could they make such a request of Joshua?

vv 7-10 → Why is it ironic that God is telling Joshua to protect them?

*See Exodus 23:32; Deuteronomy 7:2.*

vv 11-14 →

What two miracles are recorded?

What is the context of these miracles?

What does this tell you about God?

How does this apply to your marriage?

Conclusion: Is the covenant you made with your spouse as important to you as it is to God?

**Assignment for Saturday**

*Set aside a specific time with your spouse to discuss the following:*

Discussion starter: Tell at least one quality of your spouse that you are thankful for.

Questions to ask each other:

1. Is there anything I do or don't do that might give you (or anyone else: children, in-laws, friends) the impression that I am not committed to our marriage covenant?
2. Is there anything you would like me to do or not do that will make you feel more secure in our marriage covenant?
3. Is there something you would like to ask me, but are hesitant to do so?
4. Is there something you would like to tell me, but are hesitant to do so?

# I DO: WILLING TO FOLLOW THE RIGHT EXAMPLE

Ladies' Session

1 Peter 2-3

## INTRODUCTION

**I. God's method: without \_\_\_\_\_ (3:1-2)**

**II. God's priority: \_\_\_\_\_ (3:3-6)**

A. The right \_\_\_\_\_ (v.3-4)

B. The right \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6)

**III. God's pattern: " \_\_\_\_\_ " (3:1)**

A. This is \_\_\_\_\_ (2:19-20)

Favor – Gk. charis

B. This is \_\_\_\_\_ (2:21)

C. This is \_\_\_\_\_ (2:22-25)

Now I make known to you, brethren,  
 the **gospel** which I preached to you,  
 which also you received,  
 in which also you stand . . .  
 For I delivered to you as of first importance  
 what I also received,  
 that **Christ died** for our sins  
 according to the Scriptures,  
 and that He was buried,  
 and that **He was raised** on the third day  
 according to the Scriptures.  
*1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4*

- Jesus was rejected: *Isaiah 53:3-5; John 1:10-11*
- Jesus suffered: *1 Peter 4:12-14*
- Jesus was crucified: *Galatians 2:20*
- Jesus died: *Philippians 2:3-11; Philippians 2:12-15*
- Jesus rose again: *Romans 6:4-5; Philippians 3:10*
- Jesus demonstrated God's covenant love:  
*John 13:34-35; Romans 5:8,10;*  
*2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 John 4:10-11,19*

Therefore be **imitators of God**, as beloved children;  
 and **walk in love, just as Christ also loved you**  
 and **gave Himself up for us**,  
 an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.  
*Ephesians 5:1-2*

# I DO. YOU WANT *WHAT* ?

Men's Session

Maintaining Purity Within the Covenant

## I. It is not God's will for you to have sex outside marriage. (1 Thes. 4:3-8)

You are to control your \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 3)  
*See Proverbs 5:15-21; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.*

You are to control your heart. (vv. 4-8)  
*See Matthew 5:27-28; Colossians 3:5.*

## II. It is not God's will for you to have self-centered sex within marriage. (1 Cor. 7:1-4)

Biblical love is defined as \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

*John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*

*Eph. 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,"*

### **Greek terms:**

*Eros:* a love that takes (term never used in the New Testament).

*Philos:* a love that demonstrates affection.

*Agape:* a love that gives.

Love is giving of your \_\_\_\_\_ . (v. 3)

Sex is not about you, it is about your spouse.

Love is giving of your body. (v. 4)

### **III. It is not God's will for you to withhold sex within marriage. (1 Cor. 7:5-6)**

Not to have sex is a \_\_\_\_\_ decision. (v. 5a-b)

Key word: *giving*.

Instead of *giving* yourself to your spouse, you are *giving* yourself to prayer and fasting.

This is done with the consent of both.

Not to have sex is a temporary decision. (vv. 5c-6)

The biblical pattern for sex within marriage is \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

*1 Corinthians 10:13*



# I DO, BUT I WON'T

General Session 2

Forgiveness Within the Covenant

**I. Forgiveness is given to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ .**  
(*I John 1:9; Psa. 103:12; Isa. 43:25; Jer. 31:34; Heb. 10:17*)

God's promise:

To cleanse

To remove

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**II. Forgiveness is given to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ .**  
(*Luke 17:3-10*)

You must \_\_\_\_\_ the offender. (vv. 3a-c)

- Christians must be "approachable."
- Husband/wife must be "approachable."
- Scripture does not allow for sin to go \_\_\_\_\_ .

(*See Matt. 5:21-26; 18:15-20*)

Note: One that is "approachable" is approachable by the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and those that love them.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ the offender when he asks forgiveness. (vv. 3d-10)

**Common excuse #1 (vv. 3c-4).**

"I will forgive when I see the \_\_\_\_\_ in his life." (*See Matt. 7:15-20*)

This is unbiblical because you must accept his repentance based upon his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Common excuse #2 (vv. 5-6).**

*“I just do not have enough \_\_\_\_\_.”*

This is unbiblical because it is not a matter of faith; it is a matter of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Common excuse #3 (vv. 7-10).**

“I do not \_\_\_\_\_ like forgiving him. You do not understand how much he has \_\_\_\_\_ me.”

This is unbiblical because it is not a matter of feeling, but a matter of \_\_\_\_\_. The servant obeyed his master against his \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Forgiveness is given to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Go quickly to God. (Luke 15:18)**

**Go quickly to others. (Matthew 5:23-26)**

*See 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10.*

## Six questions to ask before bringing up a problem:

### 1. Do I have the facts right?

*Proverbs 18:13, He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.*

### 2. Should love hide it? Is it sinful? Is it hindering growth?

*1 Peter 4:8, And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

### 3. Is my timing right?

*Proverbs 15:23b, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!*

### 4. Is my attitude right? Am I trying to help the other person?

*Ephesians 4:15, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.*

### 5. Are my words loving?

*Ephesians 4:15, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.*

### 6. Have I asked for God's help? (This is to be done along the entire process.)

*Proverbs 3:5b, And lean not on your own understanding.*

## The Four Promises of Forgiveness

*(Peacemaker Ministries, Peacemaker.net)*

1. I will not dwell on this incident.
2. I will not bring this incident up and use it again against you.
3. I will not talk to others about this incident.
4. I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

# I DID, BUT THEY DID NOT

General Session 3

Matthew 11:1-15

## I. In times of discouragement or confusion, you may ask, “Lord, what are You doing to me?” (vv 1-6)

You may not understand what the Lord is doing.  
*See Matt 3:1-12; 14:3-4.*

You should understand what the Lord has \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Four Stabilizing Truths (Ken Collier)

#### 1. God’s LOVE for me is unchanging.

*Jer 31:3; 1 John 4:10, 16; Rom 8:31-32, 35-39;  
John 15:12-13*

#### 2. God’s PURPOSE for me is Christ-likeness.

*Rom 8:28-29; Col 1:28; Eph 4:11-13; 2 Cor 3:18*

#### 3. God’s WORD to me is the final, right answer.

*2 Pet 1:3-4; 2 Tim 3:15-16; Heb 4:12; 1 John 5:3; 2 Pet 1:3-4;  
Deut 6:6-9; Deut 30:11-20; John 16:13-15*

#### 4. God’s GRACE for me is sufficient.

*2 Cor 12:9-10; 2 Tim 2:1; Heb 4:15-16; Titus 2:11-12*

**II. In times of discouragement or confusion, you may ask, “Lord, will You ever use me?” (vv 7-15)**

You recognize how the Lord uses \_\_\_\_\_ .

You should believe the Lord will use you.

## SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

Different stages of life create the need for either time or money, relaxation or accomplishment. Sometimes all four are needed! Likewise, the demands of life often interfere with spending time with our loved ones as a couple or family. We have compiled this list of ideas for you as a couple to use part of your Saturday to satisfy that needed area in your lives. There are many options, but you must agree together, not concede to one person!

### **1** CHOOSE WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR SATURDAY.



You as a couple



Your family (kids, parents, etc.)

### **2** CHOOSE THE NATURE OF THE EVENT TO COMPLETE.

**ACCOMPLISH**—it must be manageable in 2 hours and reasonable to both!

**ENJOY**—relax, meander, “stop and smell the roses” (well, grass and buds at this time of year!)

**PLAY**—do something fun you’ve been wanting to do

### **FREE THINGS**

- Take a walk or hike at the beach or a park: Veterans Park, Chapin Forest, Penitentiary Glen, Chagrin River Park, North Chagrin Reservation (Sanctuary Meadow)
- Play at the park—Veterans Park, Daniels Park, Preston’s H.O.P.E Playground Park (Beechwood, \$1/child donation requested), etc.
- Go to Lake Erie Bluffs Overlook Tower, Perry (50’ high)
- Visit the Cleveland Museum of Art (yes, it’s free! 10 am - 5 pm)
- Wander through a quaint town or outdoor mall: Chagrin Falls, Falls River Square in Cuyahoga Falls, Legacy

## SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

Village, Crocker Park

- Bike the Lake Metroparks Greenway Trail in Painesville/Concord
- Borrow a library movie to watch together—the wife should choose!
- Make a meal together
- Have a board game day

### INEXPENSIVE—\$15 or less per person

- Buy donuts or dessert at a bakery and eat it at a park
- Get ice cream from Scooters Dawg House
- Go bowling
- Go ice skating at the Mentor Civic Center
- Easter Egg Hunt & Ice Painting at Mentor Civic Center (12 noon, parents free, kids \$5 each)
- Visit the Garfield Home
- Explore the Canopy Walk (500' long and 65' high) and Tower (120') at Holden Arboretum (\$14 for adults, \$6 age 6-18, under 6 free)
- Explore the final resting place of many notables at Lakeview Cemetery -- FREE?!
- Swing away at the Golf Dome Indoor Driving Range and Simulator in Chagrin Falls (coupon on Groupon)
- Explore the West Side Market and buy lunch
- See the Botanical Garden decorated for spring (\$12 each, 10 am - 5 pm)
- Visit the Bob Hope Exhibition at the Western Reserve Historical Society (\$10 each, 10 am - 5 pm)
- Go to a family fun location in Cuyahoga County: Great Lakes Science Center, Greater Cleveland Aquarium, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

### MODERATE—cost a bit more!

- Try a new restaurant on Trip Advisor!
- Free yourself at Escape Room (North Olmsted, \$27)

## SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

- each) or Trapped (Cleveland Heights, \$28 each)
- Go to Skyzone in Highland Heights (\$13 each for 30 minutes, \$17 for 1 hour)
- Experience Zip City in Streetsboro (3 hours of jumping, zip line, and rockwall for \$29.95 each; less for one hour)
- Visit the Football Hall of Fame (\$25 each adult, \$18 6-12 years old)
- Ride at the IX Indoor Amusement Park (Marc's discount tickets for \$19.99 each, plus \$10 parking, or \$79 for 4 tickets and free parking)
- A Fugitive's Path: Escape on the Underground Railroad at Hale Farm (\$20 each, reservations required, evening only)

### A SPECIAL MEMORY

- A special restaurant date
- Theater: **Hamlet** (NOTE: There is an actor and actress dressed as the part who intermittently change roles as Hamlet. This play has period costumes, extra padded bench seating like Shakespearean era, and uses the original script.)

Playhouse Square 1:30 pm (male Hamlet) & 7:30 pm (female Hamlet)

See these websites for ideas: [TripAdvisor.com](http://TripAdvisor.com); [TripBuzz.com](http://TripBuzz.com); [Groupon.com](http://Groupon.com)