

Getting Closer to God and Each Other

Reading the Word and Praying Together

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly [easily] broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

➤ **Sharing the Word Together**

1. Looking at the Word - Find the Answers to this Question as you read the following Scriptures: How does reading God's Word together benefit you and strengthen your marriage? (Chat answers as we go through them).

Acts 17:11 – *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

Joshua 1:7-8 – *Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

Hebrews 4:12 – *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

Psalms 19:7-11 – *The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure, and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

Romans 15:4 -- *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man [and woman] of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Luke 11:28 – *He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."*

2. **Pointers on how to read together**

- 1) Read _____ to each other
- 2) Stop and _____ about anything that grabs you
- 3) Talk about how you can _____ it to your marriage and family.
- 4) Determine any _____ you need to make.
- 5) _____ for God's help in making these changes.

➤ **Praying Together**

1. Looking at the Word - Find the Answers to this Question as you read the following Scriptures: How does praying together benefit you and strengthen your marriage? (Chat answers as we go through them.)

Acts 4:23-24,31 – *On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to*

God.... After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Matthew 18:19-20 – Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Philippians 4:6-7 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 26:41 – Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

Romans 8:26-27 – In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Ephesians 6:18 – And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Colossians 4:2a – Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

2. Pointers on how to pray together

- 1) _____ Prayer and demonstration
- 2) Pray _____

Colossians 1:9-12 – For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to (**) fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

- 3) Be close enough to hold hands and _____
- 4) Use a Prayer _____
- 5) Pray with _____ (cf. Phil 4:6)
- 6) Read and discuss some good _____ on prayer. (Prayer: Conversing with God by Rosalind Rinker, Intercessory Prayer by Dutch Sheets, Praying God's Word by Beth Moore)
- 7) Some things may require _____ and prayer (cf. Matt. 17:21)

➤ _____ together to do it.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____ the Covenant!

➤ Conclusion

Now that you know these things, DO THEM. That is the path of blessing. (John 13:17 LB)

➤ Couple Sharing

1. Complete Devotion Lab: One 15 minute devotional study from *Experiencing Oneness* (www.marriages.net/webinars/devotional.pdf).
2. If you are not reading and praying together regularly, then structure a Covenant to do so. Detail a plan that will work and determine to whom you will be accountable.