

# DAVID'S MEN

SEEKING THE HEART OF GOD



## Marriage

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25*

God designed marriage as a picture of Jesus' relationship with the church. Just as Christ served the church sacrificially, we must put the needs of our wives ahead of ourselves. Unconditional love relinquishes all rights of self. Love your wife as Christ loves the church.

Many marriages struggle because of poor communication and misalignment of each spouse's expectations and perceptions, and this month's assignment will help both of you in these areas. For example, one of the most difficult things for a man to do is treat his wife tenderly. We are aggressive by nature and spend most of our day in competitive environments. But when it comes to your wife, handle with care! Practice being tender, loving, kind, gentle, respectful, and patient. Love her as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13:

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7*

In addition to these "typical" DM marriage topics above, this month's book for married DMs will approach marriage from an entirely different angle, specifically: *The way to have a great marriage is to not focus on marriage.* You'll be challenged to consider God's purposes for your marriage in new ways.

A note to single DMs: What does this month's topic have to do with you?

- Since marriage is a picture of Jesus' relationship with the church, learning about one provides insights about the other.
- Perhaps God will bless you (or bless you again) with a wife one day. He can use this month's focus to help prepare you to bless your future wife and strengthen your marriage!

- This month's book for unmarried DMs is *Single, Dating, Engaged, Married: Navigating Life and Love in the Modern Age*. As a follower of Christ, you should seek to honor God in all your relationships, and this book can help.

## Current Month Assignments

- Read [\*You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity\*](#) by Francis and Lisa Chan (married DMs) or [\*Single, Dating, Engaged, Married: Navigating Life and Love in the Modern Age\*](#) by Ben Stuart (single DMs). Prepare a book summary to share with your group.
- Pray FOR your wife throughout this month. Review and print the prayer guide listed in the Resources section. *The more you pray for your wife, the more your heart will bend toward her!*  
**Single DMs:** Your prayer this month can focus on your future wife, your son's wife or future wife, or another person God brings to your mind.
- Assignment:
  - **Married DMs:** DM Date Night with Your Wife - *Review the related information in this month's materials well before your date night.*
  - **Unmarried DMs:** Meet with a married, Christ-following man whom you respect. Ask him for marriage insights such as:
    - What marriage is really like (the blessings and the challenges)
    - What he wishes he'd known when he got married
    - How God has used marriage to make him more like Jesus
- This is a big scripture memory month. Memorize the verses attached. Be prepared to quote each verse and reference. Review the verses from previous months so they become deeply rooted!
- Man-date: When you meet, discuss *how it is going with praying for your wife, the day of your date with your wife*, and your verses.

## Resources:

- Prayer guide for praying for your wife: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/10-things-to-pray-for-your-wife> (includes a link for you to download and print a helpful guide to praying for your wife)
- *DM Date Night With Your Wife* (see following instructions)
- Great post about how we can hurt our wives without realizing it: <http://ronedmondson.com/2014/01/7-ways-a-husband-injures-a-wife-without-even-knowing-it.html>

# Memory Verses

## Love Like Jesus

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 John 3:18 - Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

## Serve Like Jesus

Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2 Corinthians 4:5 - For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

## DM Date Night with Your Wife (Married DMs)

This might be the most challenging assignment of the DM year. Plan an evening out for just the two of you. It is your responsibility to take care of all the arrangements (scheduling, reservations, babysitter, etc.). Arrange a time and place to discuss the questions. Communicate the date in advance and prepare your wife for the evening's discussions. She needs to know you are not going to retaliate or attack when she shares her heart.

Every husband falls short in loving his wife as Christ loves the church. Don't get angry or frustrated when your wife shares with you. Try to separate yourself from your emotions and communicate to her (with your words, actions, expressions, posture, sounds, etc.) that you want to love her the way she wants to be loved.

*Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. - James 1:19*

DM Date Night is not a forum for debate. It is an opportunity for the two of you to discuss important (and perhaps difficult) things in a safe environment. As she shares, your assignment is to listen, take notes, and ask questions as needed for understanding. This activity is not about what she needs to do, it's about you and what you need to do to be a better husband.

Note to DM veterans: Do you have to endure this again? Yes. Just as weren't a perfect husband the first time, you're still not perfect...but reviewing these items will provide a check of your progress and reminder of what your wife values most (maybe that's changed since your last DM night).

### **Prior to your date night:**

- Give your wife the questions below, allowing her enough time to review beforehand. These questions and her responses will guide your conversation that evening.
- Pray that your discussions will be God-honoring, full of understanding and love, and free of selfishness, pride, and defensiveness. Ask God to help you honor your wife by listening, seeking to understand, and affirming her.

### **Date night discussion questions**

- What are some specific things I do that:
  - Offend you?
  - Make you feel unvalued?
  - Make you fearful in some way?
  - Make you feel secure and safe?
  - Make you feel especially loved?
- Are there any things in my life you feel are more important than you? What can I do to help you know you are second only to God?
- Are we spending enough time together? How much is best? When?
- What are your favorite times that we spend together?
- What are your favorite activities that we do together?
- What time of day is best for us to talk?
- How do you want me to greet you at the end of the day?
- What is meaningful communication to you?
- Where do you rank our communication on a scale of 1-10? (10 = best) Why?
- What are some things I could do to make our communication a "10" over the next year?
- How am I doing with meaningful touch apart from sex (on scale of 1-10)?
- What do I do when it comes to touching that you don't appreciate?
- What could I do in a heated argument to draw us closer – not farther apart?
- What would be a romantic evening for you?
- What are some things I do that take the romance out of our relationship?
- When you are hurting or discouraged, what is the best way I can help you?
- Decision-making – Do you feel excluded or overburdened? What can I do to improve this area and make our relationship stronger?
- Is there anything else I do/don't do that dishonors you, frustrates you, embarrasses you, or hurts you? *Remember that it is my goal to be a better husband – please share honestly.*
- Is there anything specific you feel God is leading us to do as a married couple to be obedient and bring glory to Him?