

## GOING FURTHER LAKE POINTE SUPPORT

### PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

Lake Pointe provides onsite, Christ-centered professional counseling. Both male and female counselors are available. Counseling is offered for adults, adolescents and children. Fees are significantly lower than comparable services in our community. All counseling is confidential. For more information, visit [lakepointe.org/counseling](http://lakepointe.org/counseling) or call 469.698.2250.

### RE|ENGAGE

A ministry that offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. This ministry utilizes small groups led by qualified facilitators offering support, openness and scripture guided conversations rather than giving advice. For more info, go to [lakepointe.org/reengage](http://lakepointe.org/reengage)

### BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE

A Saturday morning workshop led by Lead Pastor Steve Stroope on a semi-annual basis. The cost is \$30 per couple which includes breakfast, child care and materials. Find dates and registration details at [lakepointe.org/counseling](http://lakepointe.org/counseling) or call 469.698.2250.

### MARRIAGE HOT TOPIC CLASSES

Classes that run from four to six weeks and focus on different aspects of marriage. For more information on dates and times, visit [lakepointe.org/hottopic](http://lakepointe.org/hottopic)

### HOMEPOINTE RESOURCES

Practical tools for various seasons of marriage and easy ideas to use for date nights are available from the campus HomePointe Center or online at [homepointe.org](http://homepointe.org)

# THE INTENTIONAL HUSBAND





# BUILDING A GOD-HONORING MARRIAGE

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 to get started now.

## GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

### **It Starts At Home**

by Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroope

### **Love and Respect**

by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

### **The Five Love Languages**

by Gary Chapman

### **A Celebration of Sex**

by Dr. Douglas E. Rosenau

### **Simply Romantic Nights Kit**

from Family Life Ministries

### **Cherish**

by Gary Thomas