



BY DESIGN

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE, FAMILY, AND SINGLEHOOD

EIGHT WEEKS OF GUIDED READINGS AND PRAYER
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH





This week we will read various passages throughout scripture that will enable us to examine the origin of marriage and see God's original intention for the home and how it leads us to the Gospel. As we look at God's original design for marriage, our hope is that we will be able to recognize what exists in our own lives that is outside of God's intention. After reading these verses, let the following prayers be a guide to you throughout your day, and may it deepen your conversation with the Lord.

SONG OF THE WEEK

What A Beautiful Name
Artist: Hillsong Worship

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading: Introduction
through Page 16 to the break

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1 | **Key Passage:** Genesis 1:26-28

Prayer: Father, I ask that today you would help me realize who I am in you. Give me the strength needed to live according to your purpose and your design which is to be in your likeness. Thank you that you have given your Word as a reminder of what your true design is for humanity and marriage.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2 | **Key Passage:** Genesis 2:20-25

Prayer: Lord, please help me remember today that you are the ultimate giver of life. Help me to remember the gift of a spouse and the gift of marriage is from you and only you. I pray that the relationships that I am in will bring glory to your name today.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19 | **Key Passage:** Matthew 19:4-6

Prayer: God I need your help to remind me of the unity that should take place within my relationships with others. God, I am asking that you would help me today to not be divided, angry, or competitive with others, but would instead nurture others with a love that is only from you.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5 | **Key Passages:** Ephesians 5:31-32

Prayer: Lord, help me realize today that my marriage and my relationships are to bring honor and glory to the name of Jesus. Help me to realize today that how I live will impact how others view you. Give me the strength to live as an imitator of God and help me to walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Help others to know you better because of the way I am loving and treating others.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

Scripture Reading: Luke 22 | **Key Passage:** Luke 22:20

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for pouring yourself out for me as the purchase price for my life. Remind me today Lord, that I am not deserving of your love and yet you still love me. You love me so much that you took the cup of wrath on my behalf. Lord, I am asking that this will serve as a reminder in how I am to love and treat others. I pray that my marriage and my relationships will show this same type of love.

WEEK 1

IN THE BEGINNING



This week we will read various passages about Old Testament families that reveal to us the brokenness that sin has caused to our relationships. Our hope is that seeing these dysfunctional families will remind us that we are not alone in whatever relationship struggle we might be facing, learn from their mistakes and look to the Gospel as our source of hope. After reading these verses, let the following prayer guide you into deeper conversation with the Lord as you pray through these verses.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Living Hope
Artist: Phil Wickham

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading:
The remainder of Chapter 1; Chapter 8

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3 | **Key Passage:** Genesis 3:16-20

Prayer: Father, I ask that you would help me recognize the brokenness that exists in me in order that I might rely more deeply on the Gospel. It is clear that sin effects every part of my life, especially within my family. Help me to see the grace that I need from you because of my sin so that I might extend grace to others who have sinned against me.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

Scripture Reading: Genesis 4 | **Key Passage:** Genesis 4:3-8

Prayer: Jesus, help me to live a life free of jealousy. Help me to be content with what you have entrusted to me and be happy for the blessings that you have given to others. Give me strength to resist the sin of comparison and envy that far too often is crouching at my door. I need your strength to resist evil and do good.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

Scripture Reading: Genesis 13 | **Key Passage:** Genesis 13:8-10

Prayer: God I need your wisdom to allow me to put my relationship before any conflict that I might have in my life. Give me the grace needed to follow Abraham's example of seeking resolution to issues that might damage relationships with people that I love. Thank you that your word reminds us of the blessings that follow humility. Please allow my heart to be humble and gentle today.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37 | **Key Passage:** Genesis 37:1-4

Prayer: Father please protect me from the destructive power of anger. Allow my heart to be sensitive to the sinful thoughts that I might have towards others and repent of them before it leads me to harmful words or actions. Allow your mercy to be extended from me to anyone who has offended me. Please give me the strength to allow the Gospel to be expressed through me today.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Scripture Reading: Genesis 42-50 | **Key Passage:** Genesis 50:15-21

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for the forgiveness and mercy that I have freely received from you. It is only by your goodness and grace that I can be saved because I have sinned against you. In light of this, help me to walk in forgiveness. Give me the strength like you gave Joseph to extend mercy to those who have hurt me. Help me seek reconciliation and restoration with those that I am in conflict with. Help me see that you can take the evil done to me and use it for your glory.

WEEK 2

DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY



This week we will read various passages that speak to masculinity and the God-given role of men in our culture and in the home. These passages will challenge and inspire men to live according to God's design for their lives. This week will also give ladies a guide for praying for the men in and around their lives.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Cornerstone
Artist: Hillsong Worship

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading:
Chapter 2

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 2 | **Key Passage:** 1 Kings 2:2-4

Prayer: Lord, reveal to me what it means to be strong in the Lord. Help me to recognize that masculinity is marked by faithfulness to the Lord. Help me to be faithful in all of my pursuits, that your name would be glorified in all that I do.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 16 | **Key Passage:** 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Prayer: Father, keep my eyes fixed on you, and the things of you. Help me to recognize the importance of community, and help me to serve you in all that I do. Jesus, may my life be characterized by your model of love.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 4 | **Key Passage:** Proverbs 4:10-15

Prayer: Help me to recognize when I am operating in my flesh. Give me the boldness and discipline to pursue holiness, recognizing that you have given your Word as my guide, your people as my accountability, and your spirit as my helper. Protect me from the evil one!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5 | **Key Passage:** Ephesians 5:25-33

Prayer: Lord, help me to recognize the incredible sacrifice you made on my behalf. Reveal to me what it looks like to love someone in this same way. Help me to lead, in humility, especially in my home.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Scripture Reading: Micah 6 | **Key Passage:** Micah 6:6-8

Prayer: Father, instill in me a desire to make your name known in my community. Help me to recognize the calling that you have placed on my life to serve those around me. Help me to be a reflection of your kindness and humility in all of my interactions today.

WEEK 3

BIBLICAL MANHOOD



This week we will read various passages about womanhood from God's Word. We will see the value, worth and beauty ascribed to a woman as well as the clear intentions of God for women and their purpose in His kingdom. Allow God's Word to guide, inform and direct you as you seek to be a follower of Jesus Christ and walk in submission to His Word. After reading these verses, let the following prayer guide you into deeper conversation with the Lord as you pray through these verses.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Peace Be Still
Artist: The Belonging Co.

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading:
Chapter 3

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 31 | **Key Passage:** Proverbs 31:30

Prayer: Father remind me today of your goodness toward me as a child of God. Help me to remember that my worth is found in Jesus and not in my appearance, accomplishments, desires or pleasure. You alone are my satisfaction and you alone are worthy to be praised. Cause me to fear you, know you and seek you intimately.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 27 | **Key Passage:** Proverbs 27:15-16

Prayer: Jesus cause me to be an encouragement to those around me. Help me to avoid nagging words and judgmental talk and only to say things that build others up and point them to you. Please give me the wisdom, patience and faith to love others as you have first loved me.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2 | **Key Passage:** Philippians 2:1-11

Prayer: Spirit of God work in and through me today and cause me to be a living sacrifice. Remind me of the lengths to which Jesus has gone to love me, serve me and ultimately die for me. Empower my life to let go of any pride or vain conceit that causes me to desire myself over you. Empty me of anything that impedes my relationship with you and prevents me from serving others. I confess to you today that I need you more than ever and I cannot walk apart from you.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3 | **Key Passages:** 1 Peter 3:1-6

Prayer: Father please guide my heart to submission. Help me to see clearly your good design and order that accomplishes your purposes and brings you glory. Remind me of Jesus' submission and his ultimate act of sacrifice on the cross. Fill my heart with joy as I walk in obedience to your leading and honor you with my life.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Scripture Reading: Luke 8 | **Key Passage:** Luke 8:48

Prayer: Father remind me that you are my Father and I am your child because of Jesus. Cause me to be overwhelmed by your love for me and remind me of my status as a child of the King. You are a good Father that loves all of His children dearly. Thank you for your kindness, protection and desire to care for me as your child.

WEEK 4

BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD



This week we will be examining the design of sex as intended by God according to His word. We are going to see what human sexuality is and we will discover God's plan for sex and its place within the home. Our prayer as we study God's word on this topic is that the Lord would reveal to us how sex is designed to glorify God and to prompt us toward the character of Jesus. I also pray that God will reveal any sin that is hidden within our hearts as it relates to moral and sexual purity. Let the following reading plan and prayer guide lead us toward a closer walk with Jesus.

SONG OF THE WEEK

King of My Heart
Artist: Shane & Shane

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading:
Chapter 4

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Scripture Reading: Mark 10 | **Key Passage:** Mark 10:6-9

Prayer: Lord, I am asking that you would help me understand your original design for sex in my life. I am praying Lord that you would help me to bring honor to you according to your intentions for how I am living in regard to sexual activity in my life. Would you show me anything that is displeasing or unholy in my life? God, thank you for the gift of sex and I pray Lord that you will keep me from abusing that gift that you have graciously given.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 7 | **Key Passage:** 1 Corinthians 7: 1-5

Prayer: Lord thank you for the gift of sex that you have given. I pray Lord that you will keep me from falling into the temptation of sex that is outside of your intent for my life. I thank you God for the plan that you have given for marriage and how it reminds us of the goodness of you in our lives. I pray that you would realign my desires according to your word. Help me steward the gift of sex in a way that is honoring to you.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 5 | **Key Passage:** Proverbs 5:18-23

Prayer: Lord I pray that you would help me with any past shame regarding sexual sin in my life. I pray that you would help me to not lack any discipline when it comes to sexual temptation. Protect me from being led astray and help me to flee from sexual sin. Thank you that in the realm of your design, there is no shame in sex. Please give me strength as I seek to honor you in my sex life and that in all things I would bring honor and glory to you.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13 | **Key Passage:** Hebrews 13:4-6

Prayer: God will you be my helper as you have promised. I pray that you will give me the strength to become or remain sexually pure before you. Help me today keep my life from a love of anything that is outside of your design for me as a follower of your son Jesus. Give me the confidence of you being my helper and you being my sustainer in all things. Keep my heart pure before you. Thank you Jesus that you are the one to help me be clean before you.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 4 | **Key Passage:** Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Prayer: God thank you for the gift of marriage and the gift of intimacy. I pray that the intimacy in my marriage will be an overflow of the intimacy I have with you. Help me to remember that you have designed sex as a gift to be stewarded for the sake of drawing us closer to you. Lord, give me the wisdom and strength that it takes to function as one with my spouse.

WEEK 5

THEOLOGY OF SEX



This week we will hear what Jesus says about money and possessions. Our prayer is that as disciples, we would allow these passages to shape the way we view and use the resources that God has entrusted to us. Also, we desire that we would understand that the Gospel wants to influence every area of our lives. After reading these verses, let the following prayer guide you into deeper conversation with the Lord as you pray through each scripture.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Be Thou My Vision
Artist: The Village Church

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading:
Chapter 6

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6 | **Key Passage:** Matthew 6:19-21; 33

Prayer: Father, allow me to live for eternal treasures rather than temporary.

Forgive me for worrying and being overly concerned with what I have. I know that you are the provider and giver of all things and that I can trust in you. Help me to seek first your Kingdom and righteousness, resting in the assurance that you will provide everything that I need.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:16-30 | **Key Passage:** Matthew 19:29-30

Prayer: Jesus, you have called me to submit all of who I am to you. It is clear that being a disciple means that YOU must be what I treasure most. Show me areas in my life that are not fully surrendered to you, and give me the power needed to submit these things to you. Create in me a heart that is free to let go of my possessions and use all of what I have for your purposes.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30 | **Key Passage:** Matthew 25:21

Prayer: God help me to live with the understanding that everything that I have belongs to you. Give me the wisdom needed to be a faithful manager of what you have entrusted to me. Forgive me for the times that I have wasted what you have given me. Use me and allow me to leverage all that I have for your Kingdom and glory.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:13-40 | **Key Passage:** Luke 12:13-21

Prayer: Jesus, help me to put my hope in you rather than the things of this world. You are all that I need. Protect me from the desire to consume all that you have entrusted to me on myself. Allow my heart to seek how to use all that I have to bless others in your name. Because life is brief and I do not know when you may call me home, let me hold loosely those things that I cannot keep while holding firmly to the eternal blessings that I cannot lose.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:1-15 | **Key Passages:** Luke 16:13

Prayer: Father, allow me to be shrewd in how I leverage what you have entrusted to me for the advancement of the Gospel. I know that you know what is in my heart even more than I do, so show me the areas of my life where I am serving money instead of you. Forgive me, and allow me to be fully devoted to you with all that you have given me.

NOTES

WEEK 6

MONEY MATTERS



This week we will read various passages that speak to God's desire for us to be the primary spiritual educators of our home. These verses will challenge and inspire us to disciple and parent our children to know, to love and to live on God's mission.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Blessed Assurance
Artist: Elevation Worship

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading:
Chapter 5

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

Scripture Reading: Psalm 127 | **Key Passage:** Psalm 127:4

Prayer: Lord, I recognize children are a gift from you. Help me to steward those whom you have entrusted to me - whether my own children, or spiritual children. Help me to realize that children, like arrows, are meant to be sent out, so Lord, reveal to me opportunities to equip them to be used for their God-given purpose.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Scripture Reading: Psalm 78 | **Key Passage:** Psalm 78:1-8

Prayer: Lord, help me to recognize the weight that accompanies raising children. Center my heart on investing in my children for the sake of generations to come. Let the things you have revealed to me impact the way I love my family. Instill in me a love for your Word that I may pass on.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6 | **Key Passage:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Prayer: Lord, reveal to me the moments when I am not being diligent in the way I am investing in my children. May the way that I love you with my heart, soul, and might be a model for my family and those around me. Give me a sensitivity to opportunities when I can have Gospel-centered conversations.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3 | **Key Passage:** 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Prayer: Lord, help me to recognize that your Word is profitable and useful in the way that I parent and invest in others. Teach me, through your Word, that I may teach others, reveal my own shortcomings that I may challenge others, and train me that I may be equipped to parent and lead the way you have intended.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6 | **Key Passage:** Ephesians 6:1-4

Prayer: Lord, help me to recognize that discipline is a God-given gift. Help me to be gracious, merciful, and patient in the way I parent. Lead me, that I may lead my family well, and honor you in doing so.

NOTES

WEEK 7

RELEASING ARROWS



This week we will read various passages about singlehood from God's Word. We will see that God is sovereign and we can trust him in all things. We will also see the usefulness of both the married and the single person. One status is not greater or less than in the Kingdom of God. Singlehood presents unique opportunities to serve God and bring him glory.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Right Now
Artist: Cross Point Church

CHAPTER OF THE WEEK

Gospel in the Home
Reading:
Chapter 7

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 7 | **Key Passage:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Prayer: Thank you Jesus for your provision in my life. Take the words of Paul and give me strength to be "free from anxieties." Help me to focus on you and fuel my desire for purity and holiness. You are good and you are good to me. Thank you that I can trust you and live for you as you have planned.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19 | **Key Passage:** Matthew 19:11-12
Prayer: Father, give me faith o trust you regardless of my circumstances. Strengthen my resolve to live for you and help me to hear you. The gifts you give are good and perfect gifts - given at the right time and in the right way. Remind me of your love for me and your desire for my joy and satisfaction to be found in you and you alone.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Scripture Reading: Romans 15 | **Key Passage:** Romans 15:17-19
Prayer: Jesus, thank you for the ministry that you have afforded me. May I be bold in my faith and willing to speak of your Gospel to those in need. Give me clarity of mind, generosity of heart and the readiness to act. Help me steward my time, energy and resources for your glory. Thank you for your provision in my life.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1 | **Key Passages:** Philippians 1:24-26
Prayer: Father fill my heart with a desire to grow in my faith. Help me to take advantage of opportunities you present to me to honor you, serve you and minister to others. Give me a desire to press into your Word and your glory. Remind me of the ministry of Jesus and how he exhausted his life for your glory and in result my benefit. Help me to see others the way that you have seen me and allow this view to fuel my actions toward you and others.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 27 | **Key Passage:** Proverbs 27:17
Prayer: Lord Jesus lead me to value community and accountability. I pray that I would be willing to hear the counsel of others that love you and love me. Help me to pursue Godly friendships and be willing to be authentic and seek biblical community. Thank you for your good gift of the church and help me to walk in purity, holiness and justice by using the people you have placed in my life and empowering me by your Spirit.

NOTES

WEEK 8

PAUL'S GUIDE TO SINGLEHOOD

