

SESSION 9: SHARING YOUR FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT AND PLAN

Welcome and Share your Family Mission Statements: 30 minutes
Small Group Discussion: Assessment and Future Commitments: 15 min

Also, reflect back on this program and talk about how your perspective is different:

- **What is MORE important to now?**
- **How have your beliefs shifted?**
- **Is your heart different for Jesus? Do you FEEL Him? Why or why not?**
- **How will you interact with your spouse and family differently?**
- **How will you interact with God differently?**
- **What are the radical changes you need to make your family mission statement come alive and how will you execute these changes?**

Small Group Wrap-Up: How can this study be improved?: 15 minutes

- **What are the top THREE takeaways from this study?**
- **What about this study could be improved to have MORE IMPACT?**
- **Was the LIFE Method of Journalling helpful and did you actually do it? Why or why not?**
- **Would you refer others for this class? Why or why not?**
- **Are you ready to participate in the NEXT LIFE Study?**

Be part of this movement and give us your feedback please!

- **Write out a testimony about how this class changed your parenting.**
- **Shoot a short 2-minute testimony video if you feel led.**
- **Fill out the assessment forms (emailed tomorrow).**
- **Consider your involvement in the next semester classes (also emailed).**

Please take the time to give us feedback, as we want to improve these classes and have the biggest impact for God's Kingdom and generations to come!

Homework: Final Assessment/Review

Covenant with Your Spouse: Igniting YOUR Promise for LIFE

"Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate." – Barnett R. Brickner

I pray this class heightened your **covenantal commitment** for your marriage. **Make a commitment to PRAY together every day as a couple!** Your obedience to this spiritual discipline will remind you who really is the Source of strength in your marriage and keep you connected and communicating.

Second, take the opportunity to grow in **selflessness**, as you serve your spouse and children. At its core, love is a decision to be committed to another person. Feelings come and go, but a true decision to be committed lasts for a life time—and that is what defines healthy marriages. In fact, more marriages are broken up by selfishness than any other reason. A selfish person is committed only to himself or herself, shows little patience, and never learns how to be a successful spouse.

Third, Learn to **forgive** and **DON'T be offended** — Because no one is perfect, patience and forgiveness will always be required in a marriage relationship. Successful marriage partners learn to show unending patience and forgiveness to their partner. They humbly admit their own faults and do not expect perfection from their partner. They do not bring up past errors in an effort to hold their partner hostage. **They chose to be UNOFFENDABLE**, and they do not seek to get revenge when mistakes occur. If you are holding onto a past hurt from your partner, forgive him or her. It will set your heart and relationship free.

Fourth, **Invest the time** — Relationships with each other and WITH GOD don't work without **time investment**. Any successful relationship requires intentional, quantity time together. Remember, **quality time** rarely happens when quantity time is absent. The relationship with your spouse should be the SECOND most intimate (**God being FIRST**) and deep relationship you have, so, it is going to require time. If possible, set aside time each day for your spouse and have a regular date-night. This is a simple call to value our marriages, treat them with great care, and invest in them daily.

Finally, do what you promised. Don't let temptations and heartaches keep you from loving each other unconditionally, from caring for each other "in sickness and in health," or from finishing strong in your marriage. Also, **urge others to keep their covenant**. We need to band together to fight divorce. We serve a God who said: **"I hate divorce"** (Malachi 2:16). We need to combat divorce in the most positive way— **by honoring our covenants** and encouraging others to do the same. Together we can become known in our culture as the keepers and protectors of the marriage covenant.

Renewed devotion to the marriage covenant will be a significant factor in helping countless couples stick to their vows and achieve the satisfaction and joy God wants from marriage.