

Day 1

February 3



Pray | For the sanctity of God's intentions for you and others

GOD'S INTENTION FOR marriage is for it to be permanent, sacred, and reflective of his love and grace for his people.

God's desire is for his people to maintain a marriage-like relationship with him. God has unconditional and eternal love for his people.



Read | Genesis 2:24, Matthew 5:31-32



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

It is apparent that Jesus was primarily speaking to men or husbands in Matthew 5:31-32. Why do you think this might be?

Desires apart from God's will can be destructive for any relationship. In what ways have you seen this destruction as a result of acting on desires that don't align with God's will?

What are some ways in which you have upheld God's intentions for your relationship with him and with others? Spend time in prayer and ask God for the strength to continue to uphold his values and intentions for your relationship with him and in your interpersonal relationships.

Day 2

February 4



Pray | Ask for God's power to overcome hopelessness

THROUGH THE POWER and grace of Jesus Christ, God offers redemption and forgiveness for any relationship. We read today's scripture verses that Jesus speaks of permitting divorce on the grounds of sexual immorality; however, he does not require divorce.

Jesus always offers hope and forgiveness in order to repair any broken relationship. While it might take a lot of time, pain, and effort, God's power and grace can overcome the hopelessness that adultery or sexual immorality might cause. Redemption and forgiveness are always available in any relationship provided there is **personal safety** for all involved.



Read | Matthew 5:31-32, 6:14-15



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Reflect on an instance in your life in which you found it difficult to forgive someone who wronged you. How did you overcome those difficulties? If you have not yet overcome those difficulties, spend time in prayer and ask God for the grace to forgive.

Reflect on an instance in your life where you may have wronged another person and that person forgave you. How did the power of receiving forgiveness affect your relationship with that person? How about with God?

Day 3

February 5



Pray | Ask God to show you ways to glorify him

SOMETIMES THE CONTENTS of one’s heart can be revealed in actions or deeds. When we demonstrate God’s grace, mercy and forgiveness to others, we also are glorifying God.

Relationships with others are no exception. While today’s scripture verses focus on divorce from a marriage, God’s overarching plan of redemption applies for his people in any of their relationships. When God’s people demonstrate grace, mercy, and forgiveness in their interpersonal relationships, it can reflect God’s glory to others.



Read | Matthew 5:7, 5:31-32



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Take time to search dictionary definitions of forgiveness and mercy. Compare and contrast the two. Forgiveness and mercy do not always have to go hand in hand. However, it sometimes might be appropriate to extend both to someone who has wronged you.

Where has God been most merciful to you in your life? How did that feel? Remember that love and freedom and how you can emulate God in showing mercy to someone else.

How have you shown mercy to others? Have you ever shown significant mercy in your marriage? How might you be able to continue to show mercy in order to glorify God?

Day 4
February 6



Pray | Tell God you have complete trust in him

“DON’T MAKE PROMISES you can’t keep.” This well-known saying was likely taught to many of us by parents or grandparents at an early age. When Jesus teaches his people about taking oaths, he is warning them about the danger and destructiveness of a sinful nature.

God is the only being that ever has and ever will be able to keep all his promises. It is ok to allow yourself to be vulnerable, submit to God’s will, and realize that as humans, we are broken and will never outwit sin entirely, even as followers of Christ. Let God take care of all the promises and oaths.



Read | Matthew 5:33-37, James 4:13-17



Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Have you ever thought or said something to God like this: “God, if you do _____ for me, I promise I will never again do _____?” How might transactional promises like this cheapen what God’s mission is for you? God’s will runs independent of any bribe we could concoct.

The dynamics of life leave humans very vulnerable to change and outside influence. Where do you find your relationship with God most challenged by outside influences? How do these changes or influences affect promises you might have made to God in the past?

Only God knows what the future holds. Does this give you comfort, knowing that you can give your future to God? If you do not yet have a relationship with God, spend time in prayer and ask him into your heart. You may want to ask a trusted Christian friend, or a pastor on staff at Five Oaks, to pray with you. God promises an eternal life in his kingdom for those who open their hearts to him.

Day 5

February 7



Pray | Thank God for his perfection

WHEN WE TAKE an oath or make a promise, it might be an indication of a self-belief of having equal or even higher authority than God.

When we make promises or take oaths, we are saying we will be perfect in those oaths and promises. However, this is very difficult because humans are not perfect in anything. God is the only form of perfection in existence.



Read | [Matthew 5:33-37](#)



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Making promises or oaths to God or others can erode the value of God’s grace. If you do not yet have a relationship with God, know that even the most devoted Christians can have sin creep into their lives, but God is perfect in his forgiveness, grace, and love for all his people. God requires your faith. He does not require your perfection.

What areas of your life have you found it most difficult to trust God over yourself? If you have not yet been involved in small group at Five Oaks, email Small Groups Pastor, Jonathan Haage, jhaage@fiveoakschurch.org, and indicate you might be interested in joining one. Spending time with and sharing life with other believers can strengthen your trust in God.

For others looking in at your life, how might they know that you have a personal relationship with God? Ask God for the confidence to have a spiritual conversation with someone in your life who is far from God.

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