

BEATING THE ODDS

WEEK 6: IN OUR ROMANCE

DAY 1: READ ISAIAH 54:1-3

Here, God is encouraging His bride, assuring her of His promises and intentions for her. Do we model the same communication in our marriages? When's the last time you verbally communicated your intentions toward your spouse? When's the last time you both reflected on the Lord's intentions for you, your marriage and your family? Take time to talk to your spouse today. Communicate your encouragement, intention and love for them today. Set aside time today to pray with your spouse, seeking and listening for the Lord, that He might speak, that you would listen and understand His purpose for you.

DAY 2: READ ISAIAH 54:4-7

Here, God defends us from shame and reproach with His love. When there is tension in marriage or trust is broken, how can both of you, individually and together as a couple, seek restoration, reconciliation and renewal? How much does fear factor into your marital dynamics? Is it fear of rejection, instability, accomplishment, abuse, jealousy, shame? How can you, like the Lord, restore peace, perfect love and humble service?

DAY 3: READ ISAIAH 54:7-10

How does the Lord model love in the way He shows righteous anger? How did God answer our sinful trespasses with love while maintaining perfect justice? (Hint: the crucified, risen JESUS!) Whether we're angry for righteous reasons or angry because we're sinful people, how can we seek to restore peace and perfect love with our spouses? Have you communicated your desire to restore peace with your spouse?

DAY 4: READ ISAIAH 54:11-12

Look at the great promises of the Lord for us! His love is lavish and sharply contrasts with the brokenness of our sinful hearts. How can you lovingly restore your spouse to hope, peace and point them to the greater promise of God? How can you verbally and tangibly imitate God in demonstrating this love? Find a way to do something today.

DAY 5: READ ISAIAH 54:13

Whether we have children or not, the Lord has made clear the path for ultimate hope, health, joy and fulfilment. When we invest in an ongoing, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, meditating on God's word and seek to obediently fulfill His mission for us, we experience joy, health and peace which transcend circumstance, marital status, political influence, age or sex. He has promised us this path of peace and proven it with Jesus and the perpetual confirmation of scriptural truth. In our marriages, let's prioritize our walk down this path of peace toward Him. In our families, let's jointly pursue Him and lead our kids down this life-giving path of peace in Jesus.

DAY 6: READ ISAIAH 54:14-15

Pursuing righteousness is good for a stable, effective marriage. Personally, are you pursuing righteousness in your thought life, spiritual life and physical health? Is your spouse? As a married couple, are you seeking righteousness together? What are some things you, your spouse and as a couple can do to pursue righteousness? When bad things happen, do you blame God? Are you allowing your circumstances to pollute your personal and marital perspective on God's righteous love for you?

DAY 7: READ ISAIAH 54:16-17, PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13 & MARK 16:14-20

God is all powerful. At the name of Jesus, every knee bows and confesses Jesus' Lordship. Have confidence, then, in the Lord's promises for you and your marriage. Seek to be obedient to His mission and effective in your execution of it. He has promised His protection over us, as only He can, but do you believe it? Will you, privately and together as a married couple, move forward to share the Gospel with everyone you encounter? Take time, especially today, to rebuke the schemes of the enemy with the name of Jesus Christ; pray powerfully for those who persecute you, that you might love them to restoration, just as you lovingly imitate Jesus to restore and bless your spouse.