



## SESSION 5: TOGETHER FOR GOOD - FOREVER

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*A cord of three strands is not easily broken.*  
Ecclesiastes 4:12

Marriage is a great good...but there is a greater good:

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*"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ."*  
- **Blaise Pascal**, *Pensees*

The decision to follow Jesus changes everything.

*"You become more that person God had in mind when he thought you up. You don't just become holier. You become you-ier. You will change; God wants you to become a "new creation."*

- **John Ortberg**,  
*The Me I Want to Be*

*"Being "married for a mission" can revitalize a lot of marriages in which the partners think they suffer from a lack of compatibility; my suspicion is that many of these couples actually suffer from a lack of purpose."*

- **Gary L. Thomas**, *A Lifelong Love: What If Marriage Is about More Than Just Staying Together?*

There is only one way to be \_\_\_\_\_

*I am the way, and the truth and the life, the only way to the Father is through me.*

John 14:6 (NCV)

There are different ways to \_\_\_\_\_

# Spiritual Pathways

I feel closest to God when I'm surrounded by what He has made – the mountains, the forests, the lakes or the sea. Seeing God's beauty in nature is more moving to me than understanding new concepts, participating in a formal religious service, or participating in social causes.

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

I feel closest to God when I participate in several hours of uninterrupted study time - reading God's word or good Christian books and then perhaps having an opportunity to teach or participate in a discussion with a small group.

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

I feel closest to God when I feel like I have "touched souls" with another person or a group of people, when we have shared deeply and honestly with one another. I feel like I learn more of God when I am studying and worshiping with others.

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

I sense God's presence when I am with a friend going through a difficult time, doing specific things to help the people in my community, or when I am on a mission trip. It means more to me to nurse someone to health or help someone repair their house than to teach a adult Sunday school class or go on a prayer and fasting retreat.

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

God is an awesome God and we should be excited about worshiping him. I don't understand how some Christians can say they love God and then act like they're going to a funeral whenever they walk into a church.

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

I really enjoy having 30 minutes of uninterrupted time a day to sit in quiet, praying and just enjoying God's presence. If I could escape to a garden to pray on a cold day, walk through a meadow on a warm day, and take a trip by myself to the mountains on another day, I would be very happy.

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

I feel closest to God when I am standing up for His justice. I feel like God is with me when I am trying to help right wrongs and when I try to make the world more like God intended it to be.

**Rank** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR TURN...**

Share your rankings with your spouse.

# Growing Together

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Here is a short list of activities across all spiritual pathways that you can engage in - individually or as a couple - to grow spiritually. Put a check mark by those you are currently doing and circle at least one you are willing to try.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Seek out a mentor couple                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray as a couple                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a mentor couple                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Bible                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to church                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Bible together             | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to church together                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read a devotional book              | <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in the cause of justice                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read a devotional book together     | <input type="checkbox"/> Engage in the cause of justice together          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in a small group        | <input type="checkbox"/> Carve out some regular quiet time to be with God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a spiritual retreat           | <input type="checkbox"/> Spend time in God's creation                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a Christian camp              | <input type="checkbox"/> Spend time in God's creation together            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for a good cause          | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship together                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer together for a good cause | <input type="checkbox"/> _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a class                        | <input type="checkbox"/> _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a class together               |   |

## YOUR TURN...

Compare your responses.  
Choose one new spiritual activity you can do together.  
Commit to doing it regularly for 30 days.

*"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued  
doing good. At the right time we will harvest a  
good crop if we don't give up, or quit."*

Galatians 6:9 (MSG)