

Why are we here?

1. To affirm whether you are called to be married or not.

2. To allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what needs to change or be adjusted in your life so that you have the greatest success at marriage or remarriage.

3. To heal from the past, confront your fears and concerns of the present and future.

4. To learn more about yourself and the Lord’s best for you versus your best.

5. To build an accountable group of friends all on the same journey.

Prayer Structure

1. Form groups of no more than 4 people

2. Discuss your answers as a group, allowing everyone to share; take notes to use during the prayer portion

3. Pray out loud *options*

• You can read each other answers you wrote down in the form of prayer

• You can pray for each other in whatever direction

• Everyone can pray for themselves

• One person can pray for everyone

Pray for a Mate guidelines:

• Be on time to end on time.

• Respect privacy and/or boundaries

• If your group finishes praying early, please remain quiet until everyone is done.



**Raising Your Standards**

* **ICEBREAKER**: Find someone you don’t know well and share about a time that you feel like you lowered your standards, whether it was in a dating relationship, a job you accepted, or a project that you were asked to complete. [10 minutes]
* **BIG BOARD**: Write on a big board or have folks share out loud their answers. [10 minutes]
* **BIG GROUP DISCUSSION/Devotion on the Topic of:** Raising Your Standards [10 minutes]

* **SMALL GROUP 1: It’s a Trust issue**[10 minutes]

**Read/Discuss:** Too many accept less than God’s best. Too many, therefore, get in relationships that are burdensome and don’t work out. It’s been said that “love is work,” but when God has given us clear guidelines through His word on how to keep out of muddy situations, why are we still wallowing in the mud?

* It’s a Trust issue.
  + Impatience is really a trust issue.

“I’m so lonely and I can’t find any truly Godly men/women. So I’ll settle for what I can get. It’s better than nothing (that’s a lie of Satan! “Nothing” is better!)!”

Read these scriptures and discuss.

**Read: Psalm 27:14** (New American Standard Version): *Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take  courage; yes, wait for the Lord.*

**Read:  Psalm 75:2** (New American Standard Version): *When I select an appointed time, it is I who judge with equity*.

**Read: Luke 15:11-24:** This is the story of the Prodigal Son.

**Q: How does this relate to “waiting on God”/waiting for the Mate He has for you?**

**Do you need to “return home”? To following His plan?**

**Read: Romans 8:24-28**Discuss the ways that “The Spirit” helps us as we wait.

What “infirmities”(King James Version, V. 26) hold you back from fully trusting and leaning on God as you wait?

[Pray using the guidelines][15 minutes]

**Group Prayer Time**

**Pray about:**

1. Any need to “return home”
2. Asking the Holy Spirit for help in whatever ways He has revealed to you.
3. Asking Him to open the eyes of your heart to where you truly trust Him, knowing He’s working it out and it WILL happen!

* **SMALL GROUP 2: It’s a Focus issue** [10 minutes]

**Read/Discuss:** Start by asking yourself this question:

Is your focus on:

1. You?
2. Finding someone?
3. The Lord?

Discuss this with your group.

Read and discuss each of the following scriptures  and apply them to what you’ve gleaned from this prayer time already, and how the scripture relates to where your “focus” should be.

**Matthew 6:24-34**

**Psalm 121** (notice Psalm 121:7, replace “evil” with “unhealthy relationships.”

**Ephesians 3:20**

**Isaiah 26:3**

[Pray using the guidelines][15 minutes]

**Group Prayer Time**

Pray for whatever “prescription” God has given you from these verses that you need for better “focus.”

* **SMALL GROUP 3: It’s about Godliness** [10 minutes]

**Read/Discuss:** It’s about Godliness--which only comes through time well spent with Him and “studying” His guidelines. One title given to us as the church is “The Bride of Christ.” If you truly were married to Him, based on how much “personal” time spent with Him, would your marriage be strong and steady, or headed for divorce court?

**Read and apply these scriptures to your “marriage” relationship to Christ:**

**Psalm 130:5-6**

Can you pray “expecting” God to make the connection between you and your future spouse? Are you “waiting in His word” (in His word as you wait) as this scripture declares?

**1 John 2:5**

**Romans 10:17**

Make the change! Be intentional!

**Decide right now, the following:**

1. A time of day to spend with Him in His word.
2. A hollowed out/Holy place (figuratively) where this meeting will take place.

[Pray using the guidelines][15 minutes]

Group Prayer Time

Go over your answers and pray for each other to be consistent and faithful to your fiance’ Jesus Christ.

**The Goal:** Many have found that place of perfect peace where they are ONLY focused on Jesus and developing their relationship with Him, knowing that one of the results at the end of that process will net a healthy, happy marriage someday!

Herein is the ONLY way to find it!

By Zane Kevin Reavis