

SCRIPTURE COMPANIONS:

MARRIED COUPLES IN THE BIBLE

Week Two: August 7-13, 2022

Theme: Trust in God

Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel

Opening Prayer:

1 Peter 1:22-23

"Since you have purified yourselves by obedience to the truth for sincere mutual love, love one another intensely from a pure heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God"

Person 1:

Lord and Father, Thank You that you promise us that where two or three are gathered you are in the midst. Lord, we welcome You amongst us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished upon each of us. We ask that You would open our ears so that we may hear your voice.

Person 2:

Open our minds so that we may receive your eternal wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know Your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive Your wonderful love. We ask this in the glorious name of Jesus. Amen.

Gospel:

1 John 4:17-19

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us."

Discussion Questions:

Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah and Jacob & Rachel all suffered from infertility. They all had different degrees of trust in God's plan. Abraham & Sarah had moments of doubt. God told them their heirs would be as many as the stars in the sky. Rather than wait on God's timing, they took matters into their own hands and tried to force the inheritance by creating heirs through Lot (Abraham's nephew) and again with Hagar (Sarah's servant and Abraham's concubine). Once back on track, God blessed them with a son, Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah never faltered in their trust of God. They waited on the Lord's timing and He doubly blessed them with a set of twin boys. Jacob and Rachel had a complicated marriage. After working for seven years to gain permission to marry Rachel, he was tricked by his father-in-law into marrying her sister, Leah. Jacob worked another seven years so that he could marry his one true love, Rachel. Even in the face of infertility, Jacob remained faithful to and continued to love his wife.

1. Have you ever had occasion to force God's timing? How did it work out for you? Is it difficult to trust in God's plan? What obstacles do you encounter? Can you overcome them and be in perfect harmony with God's plan for you? What are the first steps can you take?
2. For husbands: What are your goals in life? Have you communicated these goals to your wife? For Wives: In what ways can you help your husband fulfill God's purpose for his life? Why should a husband seek his wife's advice in decisions that affect her?
3. Is what your mate shares with you of great importance to you? Do you really listen? How can you correct any shortcoming in this area?

For this Week:

Trusting God's plan. God gives us hope and dreams for our lives. But He does not always give us insight into His exact plan and schedule. While this is sometimes frustrating, it is often what keeps us on our toes. As we embrace and trust God's plan, we learn to live with hope and enjoy life while God works on our problems.

This week, meditate on Trusting Him. Spend 15 minutes on at least 3-occasions. Share your insights.

Closing Prayer:

Wisdom 3:9:

Those who trust in Him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.