



STUDY GUIDE

IN THE RING 05.13.2018

[start with prayer]

What are you thankful for this week?
What are you struggling with this week?

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Rahab Ministries

[set up]

If you were to describe the marriage your parents modeled to you in one word, what word comes to mind?

If your kids were asked the same question, what word would you want them to pick?

Why do you think so many marriages typically struggle, suffer, or lack the level of intimacy that God designed for them to have (what are the typical culprits, challenges, and issues)?

[digging deeper]

What really hit home for you or stood out from last Sunday's kick-off message to the marriage series?

Read through **Genesis 2:15-3:13** as a group.

What are some observations you see about the very first marriage regarding their relationship with God and with each other?

What "good" parts of God's creation of man, woman, and marriage do we still experience and have available to us?

What challenges do we experience in marriage today as an outcome of the fall?

What changed in regards to Adam and Eve's intimacy with God and each other? How do we still experience that today? Do you remember the Triangle illustration? Can you draw it on a large piece of paper or Post-it note and explain it? How does this help us understand how getting close to God helps a man and wife get closer to each other?

We were challenged to pray with our spouse to restore intimacy with God and each other through prayer. Tell a story of a really powerful prayer time you had with your spouse, or a time where an attempt to pray was an epic fail.

How do the following verses help us connect prayer to marriage?

James 4:1-3

James 5:13

Psalm 16:11

1 John 5:14-15

Psalm 145:18

John 15:7

Going back to the “set up” section, how can prayer help make the one-word description of your marriage that you desire into a reality?

[living it out]

The primary action step given this week was to take on the 30-day Oneness Prayer Challenge. Have you started? If so, how is it going? If not, here's the link: <https://www.familylife.com/onenessprayerchallenge/> or you can text “ONENESS” to 88337.

[end with prayer]

Close tonight and pray in the following format:

1. Pray as a group for your marriages.
 - For protection.
 - To thrive.
 - For intimacy in all areas.
 - To glorify God.
2. Get with your spouse and pray together as the Lord leads you.
 - If your spouse is not present, pray on your own or with another person whose spouse is not present.
 - If you are single, you can spend time praying alone (or with other singles in your group) for your future spouse or for couples that you love deeply and want to see survive and thrive.
 - If you are divorced or separated, you can pray for healing, restoration, forgiveness, or whatever else feels appropriate and glorifying to God at this time.