



Save the *Date*

A 21 Day Devotion Challenge



THE 21 DAY D.A.T.E. CHALLENGE:

DAILY: set aside a daily 'DATE' with God. Do each daily reading and follow the S.O.A.P. prayer journal path. Hear God for the day.

APPLY: purposefully put what God says into practice each day with attention on the NEEDS of each other.

TOGETHER: have an intentional time TOGETHER, face to face with your spouse or another person and TALK about what you heard from God for the day and how you applied it.

EXPRESS: 10 uninterrupted minutes a day with your spouse or the person you're dating with genuine and meaningful **EXPRESSION**, of affirmation, encouragement, care, attention, priority, affection and prayer together.

(If you have children, you'll have to tell them to stay away and protect this time – or they'll for sure invade it.).

Save The Date

A 21 Day Devotion Challenge

“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.”

MARK 4:24

“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

HEBREWS 5:14

We exist to help you to Know God, Discover Purpose and
Change Your World.

ANCHOR CHURCH
MYANCHORCHURCH.COM

SAVE THE DATE

A 21 Day Devotion Challenge

A DATE:

The original use of the phrase “to date someone” is in reference to filling up a calendar time with someone or something. To “go on a date”, means to go meet an appointment with a person for a reserved time for a specific purpose.

Dating someone means that you are planning to occupy your time, attention and focus with that person. Great attention and preparation go into dating. The purpose of dating in pre-marriage is to spend time getting to know someone and practice the discipline of investing in bettering yourself and serving another person.

When a dating couple gets engaged and married, there’s usually a sense of “Ok, I know them now” and all kinds of things get in the way of continuing to “date” the one you’re in covenant marriage with. The enemy really works to bring all kinds of things in to distract, frustrate, anger and separate the two from continuing to “date”.

Hearing God in your daily faith journey requires daily engaging and embracing the Scripture. This is the most important thing you can do to “**Save the Date**”. Prioritizing God’s voice is powerful.

THIS 21 DAY CHALLENGE: is designed to help you prioritize developing your own faith, emotional health and spiritual strength to bring your best to God and the person He has given you in marriage and even in dating.

DAILY: set aside a daily ‘DATE’ with God. Do each daily reading and follow the S.O.A.P. prayer journal path. Hear God for the day.

APPLY: purposefully put what God says into practice each day with attention on the NEEDS of each other.

TOGETHER: have an intentional time TOGETHER, face to face with your spouse or another person and TALK about what you heard from God for the day and how you applied it.

EXPRESS: 10 uninterrupted minutes a day with your spouse or the person you’re dating with genuine and meaningful **EXPRESSION**, of affirmation, encouragement, care, attention, priority, affection and prayer together. ***(If you have children, you’ll have to tell them to stay away and protect this time – or they’ll for sure invade it.)***

Best Ahead!

Jeff Jenkins, Servant of Christ
Anchor Church

DAILY DEVOTION BEST PRACTICES:

SCHEDULE YOUR READING

Set aside a time and a place to meditate on God's word. Create a distraction free environment to dive deeper into the scripture.

LISTEN IN STILLNESS BEFORE YOU READ

Ask God to reveal his truths as you read. Pray for consistency and clarity.

READ WITH A BIBLE CONCORDANCE

A Bible concordance is a list of Biblical words sorted alphabetically, with any scriptures that include that word. We recommend "The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible". You can also use bible apps such as Blue Letter Bible, biblehub.com or other Bible apps.

READ WITH A FRIEND

Do your reading plan with someone that will hold you accountable to your daily reading. Get on track with someone else - and sharpen each other by knowing you're not doing this important deep work alone.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

SHARE WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING

Don't just read it! Share how God's word is speaking to you! Write. Post. Blog. Message others.

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

Which verse stood out to you?

S — SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

What is God saying to you?

O — OBSERVATION

What do you feel God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

How can you apply it today?

A — APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

Ask God to help you use what you've learned.

P — PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

ADVANCED DEVOTION PLANNING GUIDE

ADVANCED DEVOTIONAL PLANNING GUIDE	
QUESTION	ANSWER
How much daily time is reasonable for you to commit to during the Anchor 21 days of Prayer?	
How many days are you committing to completing?	
When is the best time of day for you to commit to for your devotion?	
What things do you benefit from during your personal devotion time? (Reading, music, praying out loud, walking, sitting, eating, drinking, writing, typing, studying, memorizing verses, meditating, writing observations)	
Where will you do your daily personal devotion time?	
Will you use music during your time? What kind? What device will you use?	
What will you use to read the Bible?	
Who comes to mind that you think would be beneficial to at least text each day to hold each other accountable for sticking with your plan?	

Psalm 5:3

"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly."

Psalm 42:8

"By day, the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life"

WEEK ONE INTRO

Key Terms Joshua 1

Give – Giving is the foundation mindset of a healthy relationship. Taking is the foundation of a toxic relationship. In Joshua, everything the Lord has in the land of Canaan belongs to the Israelites. It is already theirs as a promised gift from the Lord to them. The entire book is a revelation of how God gives to His people what is already theirs. God gives to Israel by deeding the land to the 12 tribes. Every inch of land had to be fought for and conquered. Enemies had to be routed out. Then tribal leaders “GAVE” land plots to their descendants as inheritance.

Strong & Courageous – Fear destroys homes and ruins marriages. Fear sabotages dates. Strength and Courage in Christ will actually transform everything. The verb “to be strong” is common in Hebrew (used almost 300 times) and the verb “to be courageous” occurs only 41 times. These are words that are absolutely necessary in times of conflict and challenges in life. These are words that are commands from God for his people. When they are obeyed, then there is strong evidence of faith in God. Fear and weak mindedness are the opposite. These are evidence of unbelief, distraction and defeat.

Meditation – WHAT IS ON REPEAT in your playlist? This controls the atmosphere of every date and every marriage. This is a person’s careful attention to do all that God leads and desires. Obedience and holiness are essential for God’s people. The heart of obedience is meditation - which means keeping God’s ways on the front of our mind and bringing them up repeatedly from our hearts until they become our ways as well.

Meditation is the process of prayerfully bringing up the perfect and beautiful ways of God for our lives.

Prosper – A Prosperity Mindset is loaded with confidence in God. This term, “prosper” occurs 69 times in the Old Testament and the majority it means to succeed in one’s activity and efforts, almost always because of God’s gracious and always present hand of protection, provision and guidance.

To be “Successful” is a phrase that occurs 78 times in Joshua and indicates that obedience to God is equated with success and prosperity. The success of your life is rooted in hearing God and faithfully obeying him in all he says and leads.

Weekday: Monday	Today's Scripture Joshua 1:1-3, Philippians 3:13-14, II Corinthians 5:17
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Moving On From The Past

FAITH DECLARATION: This is day one of a new season. The past is behind me, today is a new beginning. God is making all things new in my life.

The Lord told Joshua, "Moses my servant is dead". Why is that important? Why state the obvious? Well, if Joshua is anything like us, he needs to know from the Lord when it's time to move forward. Acknowledging the end of something is critical for discerning the beginning of something new.

This is so true today. The old order is coming to an end. The busy slavery of keeping up with the Western idealism is over. The era more, bigger, faster and more famous is dead. Anytime God reminds us of something that is dead it is not to depress us, it is to reveal to us the requirement to move forward in His new grace.

When God requires us to move forward, it means we must overcome any victim mindset. It means we must press through the season of mourning what has been in the past. It means there was probably an "Egypt" behind us and even an "Exodus" where we have survived, we've passed through and crossed over into a new season.

Today, these things are true:

1. There are promises lying dormant right beneath the surface ready to come alive. They're like the promises given to Moses that were bigger than Moses.
2. Hearing and obeying God have never mattered more.
3. You are being directly called into the disciplines of your first love.
4. Do not blame your spouse, your kids, our parents, your friends, your former pastor or boss. Do not blame anyone else for anything in your life. Even if your blame is accurate ... drop your blame game.
5. Take full responsibility for your response to God in your life, marriage, family, dating and all relationships.
6. Grow up today and get back to the basics of love.

The beginning of your life change today is fully accepting personal responsibility for your simple disciplines of prayer, scripture reading, devotion, worship, praise and obedience to the voice of God.

Prayer: Father, today stir in me a passion for my first love. Light the fire that drew me to you and my calling. Breath that holy fire over my personal devotion to you. Amen.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Joshua 1:5, Isaiah 54:17, I John 4:4, Matthew 28:20, II John 1:3
Time:	Todays Prayer Theme: The Presence of God = Success

Faith Declaration: God you give me the desires of my heart. You created desires and today, my greatest desire in life is find great pleasure in you being glorified, alone.

You are not who you used to be and you are not who you will become. God is still at work with you. However, this should not affect your ability to be fully engaged in your marriage or dating – regardless of how things change or how things will certainly change in the future.

Joshua 1:5 says, “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you.”

The presence of God = the Success of God.

If God is with you - you will succeed. If God led you here, he'll protect you here. If he spoke to you, He will fulfill what He said. There's nothing more important in your life than getting and keeping your steps in the right order and will of God.

God is faithful to keep His end of the covenants He has with you.

Your best is ahead!

If God is not leading you and with you, you're on your own.

God promised to be with Joshua just as he was with Moses.

In Christ, God is with you just as he was with Jesus.

So, what do you do? Do you sense the abiding presence and peace of God with you today?

Today, as you live in obedience to what He speaks to you, enjoy the peace of God flooding you to the point of smiles and joy. There is so much joy in knowing that you are walking in the steps of God and that He is truly with you fully.

II John 1:3 says, “*Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.*”

Grace is with you. Mercy is with you. Peace is with you. It's all with you today.

Receive it and walk in it. Amen.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Joshua 1:6-9, II Timothy 1:7, Proverbs 3:5-6
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Wholeness & Rest

FAITH DECLARATION: I declare God's presence and peace over my life. I am content in God and I trust in his vision and provision for all I am and all I need.

How do we “hunger” for God and practice walking in “contentment”?

Loving the one you're with is filled with hunger and contentment. It's saturated with gratitude and humility.

This is a serious issue in relationships. I am personally more likely to be the one who “wants more” even when my plate is actually full. My wife, Sarah is more likely to not even think about anything else that isn't currently on the plate right in front of her. We sharpen each other in this.

Gratitude helps us with joy, enjoyment and contentment.

Vision helps us with hunger, energy and passion.

Joshua 1:6 says, “*Be strong and courageous, BECAUSE YOU will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.*”

Can you see it? The promise “You will lead these people to possess” is vision with a promise. The vision and the promise are powerful to cause deep contentment where ever you are. When you know who you are and where you're going and what God's purposes are, His presence with you literally creates this deep sense of contentment and pure joy in the journey.

How would you evaluate your current state of contentment and your state of hunger? Are they out of balance? Do you know where you are supposed to be in life right now? Do you know what you are supposed to be doing? Do you know who you are becoming? Do you believe the Lord has given you everything you need for life and godliness? Do you trust in the daily provision of the Lord? Do you trust in His ways and do you know deeply that his ways work when you work His ways?

God wants you to REST as you move forward. This is not sleep. This rest is known as “wholeness”. It's a divine confidence. It's a deep trusting satisfaction in Him alone.

This kind of rest is not afraid of conflict or work. It is not afraid of lack or delays. It is not afraid of slow or fast. It is not afraid of pressure and it is not afraid of boredom.

This kind of rest is the shalom wholeness of God. Receive it. Walk in it today.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Thursday	Today's Scripture Joshua 1:10-15
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: What Is Going With You In Days Ahead?

FAITH DECLARATION: The shalom of God is peace. All I have belongs to God and is for His glory. His peace is wholeness. The fullness of his everlasting wholeness belongs to me and fills my life and home today.

Do you understand what your stuff is?

One day I was sitting in the airport next to a fellow missionary and we were discussing neck pillows. He mentioned that he was currently working on a neck pillow that fit around the neck and the back of the head better than all the current neck pillows. That conversation led him to ask me what my top 5 purchase have been over the past year?

That's a great question. The problem is, I'm not at all a tech geek. I mean, I appreciate cool stuff. If you buy me something cool that can simplify things and make things better, great! I'm just not the guy who's going to think about it or go shopping for it.

My answer wasn't intended at all to be super spiritual or anything, I was just being completely honest. My answer was just one thing, my new Bible. I literally love it and if you took everything I own away from me and I had to replace one thing, this Bible I read every day and preach from is what I'd for sure miss the most.

Today isn't about materialism at all, it's about order.

Joshua 1:10 says, "Go through the camp and tell the people, "Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own."

How aware are you of what you actually need in life and what your provisions are? Are the things you have committed to the Lord?

Today, pick one room in the house. Clean out what is not going with you into the days ahead. (as long as it belongs to you and not someone else). Ask the Lord, "Is this something you want going with me into this next season?" Surrender all you have to Him and get your provisions ready for where the Lord is leading you this year.

Bring the rest to the altar of your heart and ask Him what to do with it. Best Ahead!

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Friday	Today's Scripture Joshua 1:16-18, Ephesians 5:20, 22, 25-28
Time:	Todays Prayer Theme: Genuine Submission to God and Each Other

FAITH DECLARATION: I declare that where order is restored, blessing is released. Today, I will take steps to begin and complete the restoration of God's commands, discipline and order in my life and marriage.

Does your marriage or dating relationship have a strong agreement to surrender to the will of God? Is there a true heart for this, "God, whatever you have said, we surrender to it. Whatever you say to do, we will do it. We pursue your wisdom. We want your order. We want your heart. We want your values. We are with you heart and soul."

Joshua 1:16-17 says, "Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.¹⁷ Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses."

Imagine each of two people in a marriage having this approach toward each other. Like, each of you is totally surrendered to God and wholeheartedly with each other.

The apostle Paul says it this way in **Ephesians 5:20, 22, 25-28** "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands as you do to the Lord...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies."

Today, the Lord is elevating HIS standard for following HIM. Marriage is His idea. He created it as a celebration of HIS love. It's a picture of Jesus' leadership.

Do you see it.

Jesus (Yeshuah) is Joshua. Jesus is the head of the church. Jesus is the head of the marriage. Jesus is the leader of His people. Jesus is the commander of the house. Jesus is the leader. Jesus is the one our marriages are in covenant with.

Re-read the verse in Joshua 1:16-17. Now say it out loud to Jesus (Yeshuah):

PRAYER: "Jesus, Whatever you have commanded us to do, we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Bring us together at the heart level in complete trust and surrender to you, our Lord. In your love and for your glory, Amen

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Saturday	Today's Scripture Genesis 1:28, Psalm 72:19, Genesis 8:22, Matthew 9:37-38
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Marriage For The Harvest

FAITH DECLARATION: God establishes marriage for His glory and because his vision is Family. My life is a part of His great plan and I'm submitted to His mission for His family.

Holy Spirit, give us a fresh commitment and passion for our family winning souls. May your kindness, Lord, lead US to repentance. God, please continually remind us that Anchor Church doesn't exist for those already here only, but also for those who are not yet here. Draw them by your Spirit. We cry out for souls in McKinney! Bring in the lost.

Father, I declare that the lost, the broken, the poor and the neglected are on our heart because you have put them there. Melt us in your love for the lost and the hurting. Release our resources to be a blessing to the hurting. We humble our hearts to you and we see our wealth as a blessing from you. Today we rend our hearts before you and we pour out our gratitude to you.

We pray that in our small groups people will experience Jesus. We pray that the purpose of each person's life will be revealed so that our hearts will be teachable, and we will grow. We tear off all masks in the Spirit for every member in every small group and proclaim that all shame is gone!

We pray that blind spots are revealed. We slam the door on the brokenness and devouring ways of the enemy and declare that people are set free from the oppressive blindness to your love in our area of influence.

God, we so desire that our people know who they are in You, how You want to use their gifts, talents and personality to lead others, and what their specific purpose for being alive is. Show each person in our church their unique purpose.

Lord, we are yours. You are ours. Unveil your vision for our next steps in following you. Reveal to us your kindness and the ways you are moving us to bless others.

We call forth the serving, kind-hearted tender way of Jesus to move the heart of every believer in your church!

In Jesus' Name, Amen

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEK TWO INTRO

Key Terms in Joshua 2-4

Scarlet Thread - Get your marriage, dating, sexuality and entire house under the blood of Jesus . . . TODAY.

“Tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window” (Joshua 2:18), with the promise that she and her household would be kept safe in the coming invasion. By faith, Rahab obeyed: “And she tied the scarlet cord in the window” (verse 21). Later, when the walls of Jericho fell down and the Israelites took the city, Joshua commanded that Rehab and her family be spared (6:22-23).

Marking her home was, of course, the “cord of scarlet thread.” It’s easy to dismiss the color of Rehab’s rope as mere coincidence, but the scarlet color is significant. The rope in her window was a sign of her faith and led to her salvation, as she was not destroyed with the rest of Jericho.

The scarlet rope—the color of blood—worked for Rehab much as the blood of the Passover Lamb had worked during the exodus: every home marked with blood was spared death that night (Exodus 12:13). God’s mercy and forgiveness of Rahab the harlot was signified by a rope of scarlet thread, which becomes a symbol of the blood of Christ.

Heart – WHAT IS THE HEART OF YOUR DATING AND MARRIAGE? Your heart is the sum of your entire inner being. This is where the battle for your life takes place and is tricky because if the soul is left on it’s own, then emotions and the human will can lead a person to utter destruction.

In Christ, the HEART OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP is where your two minds, wills, emotions and spirits overlap as ONE heart for God’s glory. Get This!

Will – THIS IS HOW you approach, desire and respond in relationships. This is your decision making, impulses, desires and longings all rolled up into what actually moves you. It is designed to be led by God’s voice and word. If left on it’s own, the human will always self-comforts and self-preserved regardless of the costs to self or others.

Discernment – This is your “picker”. If your “picker” is broken, then you’ll continually be unstable and unwise in your responses, choices, and ways. The ability to separate things and make decisions about what is truth, lies, real, false, healthy, unhealthy, whole or incomplete. Discernment helps filter voices, thoughts and ideas and make decisions with accuracy.

Weekday: Monday	Today's Scripture Joshua 2:1-8, Romans 8:28, Psalm 5:12
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Covering Over Your Home

FAITH DECLARATION: My home is covered by the blood of Jesus. Every day the Lord watches over me. Our finances, patterns, routines, and all our ways are surrendered to Him and covered. Grace and mercy follow us. His favor is upon us.

Two spies were sent to look out over the land of Jericho. The king of Jericho heard about it and sent to arrest them at the home of Rahab, a prostitute. She hid them, covered them and protected them for the sake of the Lord and the promise.

God loves marriage. He hates divorce. He works in unseen ways to bless, protect, prune, cover and cause relationships to flourish in His love.

Have you ever experienced a revelation of God's protection and covering you're your heart and life? Have you ever truly known that, had it not been for the Lord, you would be in a serious mess? If so, you're truly blessed. Humility is possible for you.

Have you acknowledged out loud your own personal gratitude for the covering of God over your life? Have you ever recognized how your own spouse or others have actually been used by God to keep you, love you, value you and reveal God's goodness to you?

Maybe not. Maybe things are so painful you just haven't been able to see.

Did you know he protects you with all kinds of favor and ways. Your Best Is Ahead! He loves you and is always working things out for your good because of his great love for you and for His own glory.

Psalm 5:12 says, *"Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield."*

Romans 8:28 says, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

Today, the most amazing thing that could possibly happen to you is for God to open your eyes and show your heart all the ways He has covered you in your life and is currently covering you. Let this settle you down in His love.

Let this give you rest today and mature you in His love. He's with you and He is worthy of your affection and genuine gratitude.

Amen

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Joshua 2:9-14, Psalm 70, Psalm 40:13-17
Time:	Todays Prayer Theme: Overcoming the Enemy of Your Love

FAITH DECLARATION: Today I declare, my haters and every inner critic has no power over my heart and home. The favor of God overshadows me and I am free from the power of all that comes against me.

The ways of God are working in your life today. The grace of God is so strongly for you and after you. He is equipping you to gain ground today over the enemy of your soul. Trust this. Replace all paralyzing fear with powerful trust today.

If you are married, you know this. Little inferior things pop up against affection, attention, intimacy, priorities and mutual joy and pleasure. You're going to overcome these today. Your mouth will be protected and words of God will flow from you.

If you're unmarried or dating, the same is true. You continually face opposing forces from within you and around you that seem so strong, but they're going to melt in God's presence today.

Do not fear evil. Do not shrink in emotional moments. Do not be surprised or victimized by what is against you. What's in you is so much greater.

GET THIS: The enemy of love is fear. Fear can make you feel so crazy. Fear is all about survival and it is ruthlessly unforgiving. Fear holds grudges. Fear is paranoid. Fear enslaves the core of a home. Fear strikes out. Fear is defensive. Fear is combative. Fear is selfish. Fear is bitter and full of envy.

Rahab confessed that the whole nation of Jericho melted in fear of the Israelites because of how their God covered them to defeat their enemies. She begged for covering from them as a favor for her help and service.

When I see this, I see you renouncing all that you're afraid of and exposing all of the areas of fear in your own heart and home. I see you bringing your home under the beautiful covering of God. I see you pursuing the favor of God today and walking in it.

Wisdom from Heaven and the gracious covering of the Lord is being known in your home today.

Your Best Is Ahead!

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Joshua 2:15-21, Acts 20:28
Time:	Todays Prayer Theme: Covenant Protection

FAITH DECLARATION: My God is a promise keeping and covenant protecting God. Nothing can separate what He joins together. Today, I declare that I am submitted to His purpose in covenant love and I am one with a perfect covenant keeping God.

What God joins together cannot be separated. Regardless of how many times a person divorces or remarries, the fact remains – our God is a covenant God and the covenant of marriage is such a sacred powerful union in the eyes of God. Don't get caught up on past mistakes or past broken vows. Let's just focus on the one you're in now or any marriage that may be coming up in your life.

Read **Joshua 2:15-21**. The spies agreed to spare Rahab's house only if she had a red-scarlet chord in her window and if they were actually under the covering of her house when they came in to battle. This is even symbolic of how people are protected and watched over as they're in obedience to Christ. Rahab's family was not going to be spared if they weren't under the covering of her house.

Did you know that many times, this is what it's like to be in a home with believers and in a church with other believers. There's great favor on your life - sometimes as a result of the "house" or "team" you're a part of. Many times I have seen blessing upon blessing come over a home when that family becomes a part of a healthy church that is led by servants of Jesus who keep watch over the house.

Acts 20:28 says, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."

Now, I know there are truly abusive, dangerous and horribly damaged marriages and relationship situations in life. Sometimes God grants grace to separate and even advises us to get out of abusive sinful and toxic situations. But, where are you today? What is the Lord blessing you to see and know about His covenant protecting grace/

Discern this question today: "Is your marriage truly in covenant with Jesus? Is it surrendered to the covering of His blood shed for sin and the power of His Spirit? Are your finances, decisions, and ways submitted to His will today? What does it mean to have "The Scarlet Chord" of Christ over your marriage, home and relationships today?"

This is not superstitious foolishness of symbolism or rituals. This is about truly surrendering to the way of Christ in your marriage and relationships. Best Ahead!

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Thursday	Today's Scripture Joshua 2:21-22, Hebrews 13:12, I John 1:7
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Spiritual Protection

FAITH DECLARATION: My heart and my ways are submitted to the Lord. I walk in the covenant blessing of God. My sins are forgiven and my conscience is clean because of His work in me. Today, I stand on His promises and trust in his protection and love.

Do you understand "Covenant". It is the Hebrew word, "Berith". It is an agreement that is "cut" in order to enter into. There's a deep sacrificial vow made in keeping it. It is an agreement with a God who cannot break his promises. He always keeps his end of the deal. He is faithful. It comes with relational blessings, protections and provisions.

When you enter into a covenant of marriage, it isn't just between you and your spouse, it is between the two of you and God. It's a holy covenant that there are no others on earth whom you will become "one" with. It is exclusive. It's a solid agreement that the two of you are becoming one flesh and one in God.

Joshua 2:21 says, "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say." So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Joshua 6:17 says, "The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent"

The scarlet cord is very similar to your wedding ring, in a way. Don't get weird with this, but wearing your ring is different than wearing it in sacred covenant agreement with God and your spouse.

The scarlet cord is also like the blood on the doorposts of the houses in Egypt during the Exodus. The blood was a sign to the Angel of the Lord to passover that hose with protection. In this case it was a sign to protect the house of Rahab for the favor she showed to God's people.

In Christ, the blood of Jesus covers you of all sin. When He applies His precious blood to your life - you're covered, protected and blameless before God.

Have you ever seen this kind of protection over your marriage? Are you experiencing the covenant protection today in your marriage? Can you see the Lord sparing you in many ways and continually covering you? It's not because of "the ring" on your hand and it's not because you're perfect in your ways, it's because He's a faithful God and is good beyond what we deserve. Praise Him for this today.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Friday	Today's Scripture Joshua 2:23-24, Philippians 4:13, Proverbs 18:21, I Timothy 1:7
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: The Words of Faith In Your Marriage

FAITH DECLARATION: God has a plan for my life and my marriage. I walk in certainty that the Lord is with me and is the absolute authority from Heaven over my home. I walk in obedience to Him and I am confident in His word over my home.

Proverbs 18:21 says, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue and they that love it shall eat the fruit of it."

Bottom Line:

If you love life, then you'll speak life and you'll eat the fruit of what you speak.
If you love death, then you'll speak death and you'll eat the fruit of death.

Joshua 2:24 says, "They said to Joshua, "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

That isn't arrogance, that is walking in the truth of God's covenant love and protection. If you speak, "We're never gonna be happy" or "I'm never gonna be whole" or "I'll never find 'love'" . . . then don't be surprised when it happens.

What are you speaking over your own life, marriage, children, business, ministry, relationships and future? What are the words that just "roll" off your tongue?

Are you impulsive with negativity? Do you confess doubt, suspicion, despair and hypothetical negativity? If so – you need to repent. Stop saying, 'I'm just being real.' No, you're being "raw" and negative. You're prophesying with every word and it's truly being reckless with your tongue.

Ask the Lord to show you his love today. Ask the Lord to show you the enemy of your heart side by side with HIM as your covenant keeping God. Ask the Lord to show you his faithfulness throughout all generations.

Then get your words into alignment with His word and speak the truth of Christ over your home. Speak it over your children or future children. See the goodness of the Lord in your life and do not let any voice of the enemy come into your weak judgment of reality.

Your words create the world around you. There's power in the word of God when it's in your mouth. See your enemy tremble. See your obstacles coming down. Say so. Speak it. Walk in the true and right promises of God. Best Ahead!

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Saturday	Today's Scripture Psalm 116:1-2
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Wholeness and Freedom

FAITH DECLARATION: I declare that God's desires that I be whole. Wholeness is full of trust and radical obedience. I obey God from a place of trust and my life is free from all rebellion against God.

God Hears Your Cry for wholeness and freedom.

TRUTH: Compliance is better than rebellion, but it's not the goal.

TRUTH: Obedience is better than compliance, but it's not the goal.

TRUTH: Trust is better than suspicious obedience, but trust isn't the goal.

TRUTH: Wholeness is the goal. God is calling you into wholeness today.

Whether you're coming from rebellion into compliance or sacrificial obedience into trust, you need to know that God's goal for you in life is wholeness. Wholeness is found in a life completely surrendered to living for His glory, no matter what.

Pray this today, from your heart:

I declare that in my relationships, family and area of influence and my future that this is a year in which you my God have heard our cries for mercy and things are turning around.

I believe this. I believe you have turned your ear to me and so I will be filled with faith and call on your name as long as I live.

"I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live."
Psalms 116:1-2 NIV

Father, as David declared in the heavens for the gates, doors and heads be lifted up for the King of glory to come in . . . I declare in my house that heads be lifted up to see you.

I declare also that gates of influence be lifted up and that ancient doors that have been opened for generations before us - they be opened up so that the King of Kings may come in and have his perfect way in me and in my relationships and our areas of influence. Let it be, Lord.

"Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in." **Psalms 24:7 NIV**

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEK THREE INTRO

Key Terms: Joshua 3-6

Arc of the Covenant - This is the most holy physical possession in Israel because it symbolized God's very presence and it contained three symbols of Israel's relationship with God: 1) the tablets of the Ten Commandments, 2) Aaron the high priest's rod and 3) a jar of manna. It was to be carried with poles and was not to be touched. This was carried by the Priests as Israel went into battle. It represented God's presence.

Priests – the priests were Levites and were the only ones permitted to carry the Arc of the Covenant. priesthood was restricted to Aaron's family according to Moses legislation. All priests were levites but not all Levites were priests. Priests were set apart for the ministry of the Lord and carrying His presence.

When they stood in the water, it stopped flowing. When they stepped out of the water it rose back to flood stage.

Jordan River – The Jordan river was much like the Red Sea in the Exodus. As God's presence parted the Red Sea for Moses, God's presence would part the Jordan River for Joshua. This river flows into the Sea of Galilee and from the Sea of Galilee down into the Dead Sea.

See – this word “See” or “Look” or “Behold” is a strong attention getting term, “Hinne”. The Arc was to be their guide and was identified very closely with God himself. This directive was a command to “Look for the Lord and follow His presence” into the land of promise and wherever you go.

Altar of Stones - this is a man-made small mound of stones that is set up for the people to remember the Lord and what he had done at the special time. It was to serve as a memorial to the People of Israel forever - remembering the miracle of crossing the Jordan by the presence of God.

Commander of the Army of the Lord - this is known as a “theophany”, or a pre-incarnate manifestation of the Lord Jesus. We know this because he commands Joshua to take off his sandals because he was on holy ground. This is not the language of a person or an angel. This is the presence of Jesus.

Weekday: Monday	Today's Scripture Joshua 3:1-5, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 6:13
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Setting Apart Your Marriage

FAITH DECLARATION: I declare that my body, mind, disciplines, routines and marriage are set apart for the Lord. The marriage bed is pure and my devotion to the Lord and my spouse is holy before the Lord.

That is for sure a strong declaration. Can you feel the weight of it? Do you understand the beauty of it? This kind of mindset is what it takes to "Save the Date". It's much more than "staying married". This kind of consecration is what God intended when he established marriage as being a relationship that is "set apart".

Joshua 3 is the beginning of things getting serious. For 40 years, the people of Israel wondered around in the wilderness without practicing the basic covenant agreements. So the first thing Joshua commands the people to do is this:

Joshua 3:5-6 says, "Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them."

In other words, clean yourselves up and get ready, purify your hearts and get the inside and outside of you put in such an order that you are fully attentive to the work God is doing in you and around you.

The Lord Jesus is the one who completely consecrates us. He does it by his blood continually cleansing us of sin; however, we are commanded to live holy lives set apart for God as God has set us apart for Himself.

We are different. Christ-centered marriage is different than any other marriage. The difference is the devotion and consecration of the marriage to the Lord.

Romans 6:13 says, "Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."

Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

There is so much joy in knowing the smile of God over your marriage. When you walk in beautiful covenant with Him and one another, you're saving the date. Blessings on you today as you live out the joy of consecration. You're set apart!

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Tuesday	Today's Scripture: Joshua 3:6-17, I Peter 2:9
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: The Presence of God in Marriage

FAITH DECLARATION: I live for the presence of God. Our marriage is filled with focused discipline to protect the joy and presence of God in our home and relationship.

What is the atmosphere of your home? What sets that atmosphere? What changes in your house when you walk into a room? Better yet, can you tell when the presence of the Lord is in your home or more specifically in your bedroom?

I Peter 2:9 says, But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

A priest is someone who literally carries the presence of God and stands in the gap to both serve the Lord and serve people on behalf of the Lord. A priest is a word Peter used to describe every believer.

In Joshua 3, the priests were those who carried the Ark of the covenant, or they carried the presence of God. When they stepped into the Jordan river, they changed the earth. Their feet literally caused the water to stop flowing so the people of God could pass.

Consider this, you too have that kind of spiritual authority in your home. You are a carrier of the presence of God. When you set your feet into the atmosphere of your home or where ever you are – you literally affect the room.

Wives, I Peter 3:1 says the presence of God in you has the power to win over your husband, even if he does not believe. You carry that kind of presence and authority as a priest in your marriage and home.

Husbands, I Peter 3:7 says the presence of God in you causes you to be considerate in the most powerful way with your wife and when you carry this kind of presence – nothing will hinder your prayers.

Today, what is the Holy Spirit saying to you about the presence of your marriage and your home? What happens when you're in the car or truck? What is the atmosphere like on your dates? How genuine is your affection and love for each other?

When you see yourself as a priest and a carrier of the presence of God, you will be overwhelmed with gratitude and humility in your divine role in your marriage and family. God bless you as you walk this out today. Amen.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Wednesday	Today's Scripture: Joshua 4:21-24, Exodus 28:21, I Kings 18:31-35
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Remembering The Lord

FAITH DECLARATION: I will remember the Lord. My life and marriage is build on the deliverance and power of God. We will not forget his faithfulness and we will stand on the power of His faithful work in us.

Many people beat themselves up over all the things they need to conquer ahead. They wear themselves out with dread over all the things that need to be done and obstacles to overcome.

Israel hadn't even fought one single battle and hadn't driven out one enemy of God yet, but they had already established powerful gratitude and remembrance over the victory God clearly had already given them.

It was a small victory, but perhaps the most important one. This victory submission to God's voice and following His presence INTO their promised land. That's huge!

In Israel, there are many stories of 12 Stones. 12 always represents the 12 tribes of Israel and the unity of God's covenant people.

Joshua 4:9 says, Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

Joshua 4:21 says, "when your children ask "What do these stones mean?" tell them, "Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground. For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over."

Do you believe the Lord is leading you forward in your marriage, dating or even your life? Do you sense the work of His hand in leading you to cross over into a place of real promise, blessing, joy and provision?

Perhaps there's something he wants to do to help you remember his faithfulness and even to tell your children one day of his great love for you. Today, consider how your family will pass on the faithful story of God's work in you.

Be strengthened as you remember the Lord today.

Honor him in the ways you celebrate His victories in your marriage. He's worthy. Amen.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Thursday	Today's Scripture Joshua 5:10-12
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Manna vs. Plenty

FAITH DECLARATION: I declare the Lord is my provider. I trust him for all that I need. My life, marriage and family are blessed by God and He has empowered me to work, increase and be a blessing to others.

Israel had gone 40 years without circumcision. Circumcision was the commanded sign of the covenant relationship with God. It wasn't just a surgical procedure, it was a major deal to God. The lack of covenant obedience to God had literally locked up provision that God had for them.

Joshua 5:10 says, "On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

3 things happened:

1. Every man in Israel who had not been circumcised repented of their disobedience and underwent circumcision. The whole nation was circumcised. (Joshua 5:1-8)
2. The whole nation celebrated Passover in obedience and in covenant with God.
3. God ended the season of, "Just enough for the day" and opened up a new season of abundant produce.

After Israel's radical obedience to God, God opened up radical provision. He blessed them with more than enough. Their season of pay check to pay check was over.

This made me wonder, where is your marriage at in regards to simple obedience to God? Where is your health? What are your disciplines? What is your stewardship like with the overflow or extra you do have? What are your practices in worship, tithing, giving, prayer? Have you been baptized into Christ? Are you serving in church together? What are the blessings of the Lord like in your life? Do you see His hand in relationship to your walk and acts of obedience to him?

Today, completely examine your obedience to God in everything, especially the clear commands. If anything is left undone – get it done immediately. As you follow Christ today – expect his peace to rule in your heart. Expect him to bless you to be a blessing. Honor Him in every area of His will. He's worthy.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Friday	Today's Scripture Joshua 5:13 – 6:17
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: The Power of Devotion

FAITH DECLARATION: I believe the Lord has led me into this season of my life to walk in the fullness of His blessing. My life and relationships are committed to change my world.

If you miss the topic of “Devotion” in Joshua, you truly miss the whole book. Devotion has to do with setting things apart as sacred to the Lord.

Joshua 6:17 says, “The city and all that is in it are to be DEVOTED to the Lord. . . . keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them.”

The tithe is the sacred portion. It is not only 10% of your increase, it is the FIRST 10%. It's the first. The first always belongs to the Lord. The best is His.

In the promise land, Jericho was the first, so everything in that city was to be left as an offering to the Lord. It was the first portion of the land. There are so many scriptures on this issue and the most important part of each story is “Devotion”.

You literally have to choose what you “devote” or commit to the Lord as most important and sacredly “for Him”.

Save The Date is about devotion. It is about making time and setting apart your marriage as unto the Lord. It's also about devoting your own heart to your spouse first above anything else on earth.

You devote your time. Devote your energy. Devote your resources. Devote your best.

Don't devote your best to your career development and your worst to your spouse.

Don't devote your best to your kids and your left overs to your spouse.

You are in covenant relationship with God with only one other person on earth, that's your spouse. This devotion to them takes effort, focus and intentionality.

Devote your whole heart to them. Set apart your best for them. Follow the model of God bringing His people into the promised land – leading them in “devotion”. He taught them that devoting the best for Him would result in blessing. My friend, the very same thing is true in your marriage. Devote the best to her/him and watch the blessings of God unfold all the days of your life. Best Ahead!

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

Weekday: Saturday	Today's Scripture Isaiah 40:31, Proverbs 13:12, Joshua 24:14-15
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: Renewed Vows For Purpose

FAITH DECLARATION:

As the prophet Isaiah declared over your people, so Lord, today I declare with my mouth and from my heart that – as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. We will be renewed, strengthened and will soar you your perfect covering in this new season of our life.

As your servant Joshua declare over your people, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

You have led us into this new land of promise. You have opened doors and called us into your covenant blessing to be a blessing. I declare my marriage is holy in your sight. My heart and my love is devoted to you. Your covering makes us soar, run, pace well and last forever. You have made us to run and not grow weary. You have protected us with your strength and protection. I will walk in your ways and will not weaken. I will be strengthened in your covering, Lord. As your word says, so I declare . . .

“... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31 NIV

Today, I repeat again and again that the times of spiritual hopelessness and disappointments have come to an end. This is a year of sudden *good breaks*.

So break through, Lord. I will not be sickened by delayed hope, my hope will be restored and renewal will flood my soul as your promises are fulfilled in me. Your Word says,

“Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break can turn life around.” Proverbs 13:12 MSG

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.” Proverbs 13:12 NLT

You are the anchor for our home and our souls. You are firm and secure. We taste hope in you today and your promises are being fulfilled in us today. Amen.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer
