



# the Source

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...*

No matter the size of the wedding or extravagance of the reception, the most important guest is Jesus. It is even more important to invite Jesus into your marriage. After the vows, the celebration and the honeymoon, the real joy and work of your marriage begins. Marriage is a complex maze of relationships. It is not just about husband and wife as both friend and lover. It is about in-laws and friends in relation to this new entity – new family unit. Very few couples come to marriage with the same expectations, same values, or same views. You have to figure out who you are together. If you each come into marriage with a mutual love of Jesus Christ, you will have a wonderful chance of forming a beautiful and lasting relationship.

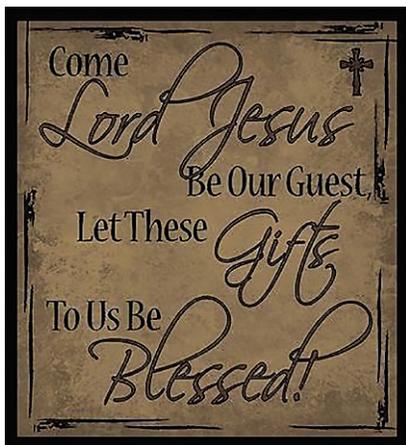
Love is a key element of a joy-filled marriage, and romance is a key to happiness. But to endure and support one another through all the challenges of life, it takes more. No one knows what will happen over the next forty, fifty, or seventy-five years when they marry. That is probably a good thing. There are births, deaths, illnesses, teenagers, economic ups and downs, beautiful friendships, great joys, and bitter disappointments. To make it all work well, you need to honor and respect one another, and you need to be honorable and respectable. You will also need to practice good listening and communication skills. Other necessary components are honesty, patience, humility, compassion, forgiveness and humor. Now people can tell you these things, but I truly think that only Jesus can give you these skills and carry you through your life together.

My family shares a common grace before each meal while holding hands, and I think it has proved to be a great reminder that Jesus must be our constant guest throughout life.

*Come Lord Jesus be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.*

Give the hands you hold an extra squeeze and say, "Thank you, Gift."  
— Myra Schomburg, First Church member

**Consider  
the Source  
John 2:1-10**



## Monday: Genesis 2:18, 22-25

Supporting each other with family members is almost always a challenge, but it is necessary to making your spouse feel loved and supported.

- When your spouse does this, be sure to thank them.

## Tuesday: Psalms 40:1-5

We never know exactly what God is going to do in our lives. This can make it a challenge to obey and not waste time asking questions.

- Share a time when obeying God resulted in an extravagant blessing.

## Wednesday: Romans 12:9-10

If you have a mutual love for Christ, you will have a stronger love for each other.

- Try to outdo one another in showing honor.

## Thursday: John 13:34-35

Do your friends, family and co-workers see the Love of Jesus Christ in you?

## Friday: Galatians 5:22-25

When you have Jesus in your marriage, you also have the Holy Spirit in your hearts. The fruit of the spirit will fill your lives.

## A Family Affair

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, or the beginning of Lent. Lent is the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. During Lent, Christians spend time focusing on their relationship with God. Sometimes people choose to "give something up," like sugar or soda during Lent. Others choose to add something in to their day to help them focus on God. Adding "listening time" to your daily prayers, spending time on your memory verse for Sunday School or singing praises to God may be examples of things that can help you focus on God and grow closer to him.

Focusing on giving could be another way to strengthen your relationship with God. Children who attend Sunday School in coming weeks will receive a giving calendar produced by Heifer International, which is our current children's ministry mission. During the coming weeks, set aside time for your family to read the giving calendar, perhaps during your family dinner or before bedtime. Each day has an informational fact about those helped by Heifer International. There is also an opportunity to donate a small amount depending on items in your own home. For example, on the day you read about vegetables, you are invited to give five cents for every different kind of vegetable in your refrigerator. If you start your giving calendar on Ash Wednesday, you will finish before Easter, but that allows extra time for days that could be missed.

*Pray together: Dear God, thank you for this time of preparation for Easter. Be with us as we make a plan to draw closer to you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

— Jennifer Hall, Director of Children's Ministry