

31

Days
OF
Prayer
FOR MY
Husband



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31 DAYS OF PRAYER for My Husband

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INTRODUCTION

Marriage is one of the most exciting relationships God has created. And yet all marriages can use more of God, more of His Word, and more Christ-like attitudes that put each other first. That's why we've written *31 Days of Praying for Your Husband*.

We've served hundreds of thousands of couples with training events and resources, and it's confirmed: every couple wants a strong, intimate, thriving marriage! Too often though, in their search for closeness, many couples find themselves asking the wrong question.

Could it be that an enriched, deepened marriage full of joy, intimacy, and fulfillment is realized not by focusing on and answering the question "How do I get the most out of my marriage" but by answering the question "How does God get what He wants out of my marriage?" Through this resource, we give you a daily opportunity to hear God's perspective about your husband and your marriage. Inviting the Creator of marriage *into* a marriage will always be a good idea!

Finally, we've also designed *31 Days of Prayer for My Husband* for your enrichment, encouragement, and growth. As you spend time with Jesus, in His Word and doing His Book, your life will forever be changed.

May God richly bless your time with Jesus and your relationship with your spouse.

Terri Snead

Executive Editor, Great Commandment Network



The Great Commandment Network is an international collaborative network of strategic kingdom leaders from the faith community, marketplace, education, and caregiving fields who prioritize the powerful simplicity of the words of Jesus to love God, love others, and see others become His followers (Matthew 22:37–40; 28:19–20).

Day 1

WHY PRAY FOR MY HUSBAND?

*W*hy is it important to dedicate the time or make it a priority to pray your husband? Setting aside thirty-one days to pray for your spouse makes sense for many reasons. Here are just a few:

- **As we pray** for our spouse, we're joining Jesus as He prays on their behalf.

Hebrews tells us that "He lives forever to intercede with God on [our] behalf" (Hebrews 7:25). And the book of Romans reminds us "he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us" (Romans 8:34). Don't you imagine the Savior's prayer list includes your husband? When you pray, you have the privilege of joining Jesus in prayer for him.

- **As we pray** for our spouse, we're joining Jesus in his celebrations.

In Christ's last moments on earth, He revealed His loving desire for us: "that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11 NASB). Jesus finds joy

in your husband and in your marriage. Since marriage is a special representation of Christ's love for the church, He feels a special joy when He sees marriages thriving. He loves when our relationship is a testimony to a hurting world. When you pray, you have the privilege of joining Jesus in a celebration of the beauty of marriage (see Proverbs 18:22; James 1:17).

- **As we pray** for our spouse, we're joining Jesus in His concern.

Jesus feels compassion for the struggles in your marriage and any challenges your husband might be facing. His heart is moved with compassion when He sees your groom hurting, disappointed, discouraged, or alone. So join Jesus in praying for your spouse, lifting up concerns and asking the Lord to give you a deeper understanding of your husband. Praying for your husband allows the Holy Spirit to help you see what He sees, so you can love him the way that Jesus loves (see 2 Corinthians 1:2–4).

- **As we pray** for our spouse, we strengthen our own walk with Jesus.

Spending time with our Savior deepens our closeness with Him. As you pray, the Spirit will minister to your heart, to your needs, and to your concerns. So wives, let's pray for our husbands! Let's pray often. Let's pray consistently. Let's pray boldly. Let's pray faithfully (see Romans 8:26–27).

Take the next few moments and join Jesus in prayer:

- * Jesus, when I imagine that I can join you in prayer, my heart feels grateful because _____.
- * I want to join you in prayer for my husband. First, I'm grateful *for* my husband because _____.
- * I lift up my husband to you and pray specifically that you would _____.

Day 2

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR HUSBAND

A world where the prince of darkness seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, needs Christ-followers who walk in the light (John 10:10; 12:35 NASB). For the next thirty-one days, we encourage you to take a journey of walking in the light. During your times of prayer, you will walk in the light of God's Son, God's Word, and God's people (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14; Psalm 119:105). As you take the journey, you will spend moments in personal prayer but then also pray for your husband. You'll pray for your husband to:

- encounter Jesus in fresh, new ways as you both take time to listen to Him,
- live out the Bible frequently, and
- interact with people by demonstrating supportive expressions of God's love.

Let's have a first encounter with Jesus. As you read these words from the Savior, imagine that He is speaking directly to you. Listen for His compassionate, strong voice. He's thrilled to share these moments just with you.

PRAY AND LISTEN TO JESUS

The darkness of this world is all around you, and I don't want you to be overtaken. So I have a plan. I have a plan for your protection, guidance, and strength. If you'll spend time with me, my Word, and my people, darkness won't have a chance. As you encounter me, I will protect you because I'm the Light of the world. Let my Word guide you and light your way. Let my people encourage you and give you strength. Walking in the light is the best place to be because that means we're walking together (see John 8:12; Matthew 5:14; Psalm 119:105).

- * Jesus, when I look at the darkness of this world, I feel especially concerned about _____.
- * Lord, I am grateful for your protection, guidance, and strength, particularly because _____.
- * Jesus, I also pray for my husband. I pray my husband would spend more quality time with you, your Word, and your people so that darkness doesn't have a chance in our home and in our marriage.
- * I pray you would protect my husband from _____.
- * I pray you would guide my husband in _____.
- * I pray you would strengthen my husband in _____.

As you continue this journey of prayer, remember the goal. Your times of prayer can't be focused on changing your husband. These moments with Jesus and His Word are designed to first develop Christ-likeness in you. The destination of your journey is a person,

and His name is Jesus. As you spend time focused on getting to know Christ and experiencing more of His love and as you spend time focused on living out His Word, not just reading or hearing it, you'll become like Him. This journey will change something—and hopefully it's you!

Finally, as you take this journey of prayer, it will also be important to remember this goal. Your husband doesn't need more things to do or assessments of his behavior. He rarely needs to hear more information or rational advice. Your husband will change as he encounters Jesus, His Word, and His people.

You may be thinking, *“My husband needs to change in some areas. Our marriage needs to be stronger in specific ways. If I can't give advice or information or assessment, what can I do?”*

Pray. Have your own encounters with Jesus and see what changes He might want to make in you.

Live. Consistently live out God's Word and do the Bible in your home and in your marriage. Watch His Word make a difference.

Act. Use the ideas from this resource and take practical action steps. Take initiative to love your husband in practical, relevant ways.

Pray, live, and act. Then watch the power of God's Son, His Word, and His people make a difference in your husband and in your marriage.

Day 3

WHAT TO PRAY FOR MY HUSBAND

This book is designed to foster a Spirit-empowered faith—a faith that is demonstrable, observable, and only possible with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. A framework for this kind of spiritual growth has been drawn from a cluster analysis of several Greek and Hebrew words that declare that Christ's followers are to be equipped for works of ministry or service (see Ephesians 4:12). Therefore, in *31 Days of Prayer for My Husband*, you'll find specific sections that are designed around four themes (see Appendix 3, pages 131–139). A Spirit-empowered disciple:

- **Loves the Lord** by talking to and listening to God for daily decisions and direction for life (Luke 10:38–42). You will find seven days of prayer marked L-2.
- **Lives the Word** by demonstrating a love for God's Word and living it out every day (2 Corinthians 3:2). You will find seven days of prayer marked W-2.
- **Loves People** by discerning relational needs of others and sharing God's love in meaningful ways (Ephesians 4:29). You will find seven days of prayer marked P-3.

- **Lives His Mission** by actively sharing her life with others and telling them about the Jesus who lives inside of us (1 Thessalonians 2:8). You will find seven days of prayer marked M-1.

Our world needs couples living as Spirit-empowered disciples who are making disciples who, in turn, make disciples. Thus, *31 Days of Prayer for My Husband* rightly focuses on the powerful simplicity of:

- loving God as your first priority,
- living His Word because there's power and possibility in experiencing Scripture,
- loving people by developing a lifestyle of giving first to your husband and to others around you, and
- living His mission, which means building a lasting legacy.

After three days of prayer focused on why, how, and what to pray for your husband, we will turn our attention to specific prayer themes. Before we focus on these thematic prayers, we invite you to live out God's Word. God tells us that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us and grants our request (1 John 5:14–15). We know it's His will for us to love our spouses well, so we can count on Him to grant this request. Spend the next few moments in prayer. Make your request to God and look for how He gives to you. "If you ask the Father for anything in my name, he will give it to you" (John 16:23 NASB).

LIVE: DO THE BIBLE

God, I know it's your will for me to love my husband well, so I'm asking you to give me whatever I need to love him well. If I need to change, show me. If I need to see things differently, I'm ready. I'm asking these things in your name, knowing that you will answer my prayer and give me what I ask. In Jesus' name, amen.

A SPIRIT-
EMPOWERED
DISCIPLE

*Loves
the Lord*



Day 4

CLOSER TO HIM

May we talk to and listen to God in prayer for our daily decisions and direction for life, especially in regard to our spiritual closeness.

STORIES FROM A WIFE'S HEART

My parents had an awful marriage. My father was weak and distant, and my mother was too controlling. I mistakenly felt it was my calling to keep my own marriage from suffering the same fate. At first, my comments to my husband were helpful, but slowly he became withdrawn.

Through the help of our mentors, we learned that we were locked into a cycle of hurting one another in one of the most painful ways possible: in ways that each of us had been hurt before. When I criticized my husband, it was magnified by the pain of criticism he had endured as a child. As my husband withdrew from me, it touched the pain of my dad's distance from me in my growing-up years.

After participating in a couples' intensive retreat, my husband and I came to see each other's pain, and we were able to offer each other words of compassion. We learned to pray together and seek

the Lord for His comfort. We experienced the joy of bringing our burdens to God and then trusting Him to make changes in our marriage.

PRAY: LISTEN TO JESUS

I long to have quiet moments of conversation with you and your husband. I love when you are still and free of distractions, because those are the times when you can truly feel my love. I especially enjoy seeing you pray together as a couple. When the three of us come together in prayer, miraculous things can happen. Remember, I am the God of love. So it's in these quiet moments of time with me that I can be your unlimited source of sacrificial love (see Psalm 46:10; 1 John 4:8).

- * Jesus, I ask that you quiet my mind and spirit. Help me to focus on you. In my relationship with my husband, I am depending upon you to _____. Since you are the God of love, I am counting on you to _____.
- * Lord, I pray for my husband. Would you draw him closely to yourself? Since you are the God of love, I ask that you empower him to _____.

LIVE: DO THE BIBLE

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray.

—JAMES 5:13

- * God, I come to you now about the hardships I/we are enduring. I need to know that you care about _____. Please reassure me of your love. I need you to intervene

in this situation empower me with your love because _____.

- * God, in the same way, I pray for my husband. He needs to know that you care about _____. Please reassure him of your love. He needs you to intervene in this situation and empower him with your love because _____.

TAKE ACTION

- Invite your husband to talk with you about any spiritual goals each of you may have (more times of prayer together, Bible study, devotionals, church attendance). Implement one of these ideas this week.
- Invite your husband to lead out in prayer. Spend several minutes discussing the most pressing needs and hardships of your life together and then pray.

CLAIM HIS PROMISES

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

—JAMES 4:8 NIV



Love the Lord L-2:

A Spirit-empowered disciple listens to and hears God for daily decisions and direction for life.

Day 5

CELEBRATE YOUR DIFFERENCES

May we talk to and listen to God in prayer for our daily decisions and direction for life, especially as we navigate the ways in which we are different.

STORIES FROM A WIFE'S HEART

Over the years, Heath and I have wasted a lot of time and a lot of words arguing about whose thoughts and ideas are better. We've had arguments over every imaginable marriage issue, including such things as, "There's no gas in the car," "The dishes don't go in the dishwasher that way," and "Why didn't you call and let me know they were coming over?" Our list of marital issues can sometimes seem endless, but even though we've been slow learners, we've found a better way.

We begin with the principle that neither of us has thoughts, ideas, and plans that are best. They may be good, but they are not God's thoughts and therefore can't be perfect. The bottom line is, God's thoughts, ideas, and plans are second to none. The famed

missionary George Mueller prayed this way: “Father, I have my thoughts about this issue, but I want your thoughts. I don’t want to have my own will about the matter—I want your will.” In our marriage, we strive to have God’s thoughts about any issue, not just our own. We pray for his will about a matter, because his ways are perfect and always for our good.

As Heath and I prayerfully approach the Lord in this way, He brings us together and causes His ways to prevail. As we’ve learned to approach the disagreements of our marriage in this way, we’ve not only enjoyed more harmony but we’ve also come to appreciate one another’s perspectives. I’ve come to greatly appreciate Heath’s vision, passion, boldness, and get-it-done attitude. I would not have come to fully appreciate these strengths in him had we not spent time together seeking God’s thoughts, ideas, and plans.

PRAY: LISTEN TO JESUS

Humble yourself, and I will lift you up. I love it when you acknowledge your dependence on me. I can’t wait to come to your aid. I am ready to teach you my ways and lead you in how to celebrate the differences between you and your spouse. Your humility is what moves me to action. I keep my distance from the proud. So talk freely about how you need me and how you are depending on me (see James 4:10; Psalm 25:9; 69:32; 138:6; Isaiah 55:8; 1 Peter 3:7).

- * Jesus, please show me your ways and your thoughts. Especially when I’m tempted to think that my ways are best, reveal your perspective. I need to specifically hear you concerning _____.

- * Lord, I pray for my husband and our marriage. We are depending on you to help us navigate our differences. We especially need your help concerning _____.

LIVE: DO THE BIBLE

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

—EPHESIANS 2:10

- * God, I want to see my husband as your masterpiece. Show me the traits about him that make you particularly proud of your creation. Show me, Lord. I am celebrating these unique characteristics about my husband: _____.
- * God, in the same way, I pray for my husband. Help him to see me as a different but still a unique creation of God. Bring unity in our relationship, particularly in how we _____.
- * Lord, you have planned good things for each of us to do. Increase our unity and help us celebrate our differences so that we might point more and more people to you.

TAKE ACTION

- If you have a question or concern about your partner's decisions, lovingly discuss it in private.
- Write down the improvements or changes that *you* could make that would help your marriage communication,

especially in regard to the ways you are different from your husband.

- Look for an opportunity to defer to your husband. Say something like, “We’re really different in this area and yet I want to give to you by _____.”

CLAIM HIS PROMISES

You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds, O God our savior.

—PSALM 65:5



Love the Lord L-2:

A Spirit-empowered disciple listens to and hears God for daily decisions and direction for life.