

# COUPLES MINISTRY

APRIL 2023

## CALIFORNIA

### I Promise



Can a marriage really survive broken trust, infidelity, abuse and so many of the other challenges and storms of life that may come our way? All of these “storms of life” can certainly be devastating experiences BUT we believe that God can redeem and restore a marriage when both partners are willing to do the hard work. Matthew 19:26 ends with “but with God all things are possible.”

From April-July 2023 we will be sharing “4 Healing Prayers For Marriage Restoration”, from Focus On The Family by Julie Holmquist - October 10, 2022 . We find examples of God restoring marriages from Adam and Eve after they were deceived by the serpent (Genesis 3:21), Abraham saying Sarah was his sister, which leads to King Abimelech attempting to take her as his wife. However, God intervened before Abimelech touched Sarah. (Genesis 20:1-16)

So, how do you stay married when you’re struggling? First, don’t give up! “According to Scott Stanley, the co-director of the Center for Marital & Family Studies at the University of Denver, deciding to stay committed is foundational to your relationship. From that foundation, you can go on to restore communication, connection, and intimacy.”

### The Best Christian Marriage Books

(by Troy Griepentros, Focus On the Family)

- You and Me Forever (by Francis Chan and Lisa Chan)
- The Whole Hearted Wife (by Erin, Greg and Gary)
- The Two Sides of Love “The Secret To Valuing Differences” (by John Trent PH.D and Gary Smalley)

### From the Directors

#### A Healing Prayer For Marriage Restoration (Part 1)

“Lord Jesus, we feel like giving up. We know you honor marriage, but we are both hurting and frustrated, and we just don’t know the answers to our problems. God, even though we don’t know what to do, remind us to keep our eyes on You”. (2 Chronicles 20:11-13)

Renew our commitment to each other and to You. Help us abandon the ‘divorce’ word and take the next step toward healing in our marriage, even if we’ve taken many steps that have led nowhere.

Oh Lord, we desperately need You to restore our broken relationship. Reveal to us what needs healing in our relationship, what needs healing in each of our hearts. Help us remember our wedding vows, because you’ve joined us together and do not want us to separate. (Matthew 19:6)

We ask You to protect us from Satan’s attacks on our commitment and marriage. Keep our focus on You and not the world that tells us to take the easy way out. We know that nothing’s impossible with you (Luke 1:37). As we seek Your face, show us the way forward. Increase our faith in You and Your power to restore.” Amen.

### Crossroads Community Church Couples Day

