

Notes:

Date: _____

Study Questions:

1. Take a minute to complete these statements in writing. Then pair up with your spouse and share your responses with him or her.

I feel loved by you when...

I feel served by you when...

2. What is one thing you can start doing, or stop doing, from now on that will demonstrate a servant-heart to your spouse?



I Promise

A REALIFE Small Group Series
from Family Worship Center

Make your
marriage
the safest place
on earth.

Lesson 5



I Promise To Serve You All The Days Of My Life

"For you have been called to live in freedom- not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13

Serving Is The Highest Calling In Life

"The greatest among you must be a servant." Matthew 23:11

- *Matthew 22:37; Galatians 5:13*

Two Ways To Serve Your Mate

1. Discover your mate's deepest needs.

"Treat her with understanding as you live together." 1 Peter 3:7

- *1 Peter 3:1-2*
- It's all too easy to assume that your mate's needs are the same as your own.

2. Assist your mate on their spiritual journey.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3-4

- God's calling on your life is to serve your mate and to enrich your marriage by serving God together.

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

Six Characteristics Of A True Servant (Philippians 2:1-11)

1. **Purpose:** Be united with Christ in purpose: with his spirit, love, compassion, and tenderness.

2. **Motive:** Get rid of selfish ambition & become "other-focused."

3. **Attitude:** Be humble. God gives grace to the humble and opposes the proud. (*James 4:6*)

4. **Action:** Consider others more important than yourself. (*Mat 22:37-39*)

5. **Position:** Jesus took the lowest role as a servant with a small "s."

6. **Sacrifice:** Jesus was obedient to serve God to the point of dying for all mankind. That is the ultimate example of servanthood.

- Jesus is the perfect mentor for developing a life that serves our mate.

Free Yourself For Service

- A primary characteristic of a servant is a willingness to yield one's own rights. (*Galatians 2:19-20*)

How Can You Become A Servant Of Your Spouse?

- My spouse needs to feel secure, loved, and honored.
- My spouse needs open and unobstructed communication.
- My spouse needs my shoulder before my mouth.
- My spouse needs to know I will defend and support her or him.
- My spouse needs to be held and touched.
- My spouse needs to be praised verbally.
- My spouse needs help.
- My spouse needs to share our lives together in every area.
- My spouse needs support when life is falling apart.
- My spouse needs my prayers, spiritual focus, and transparency about my walk with God.

- Remember, part of serving is getting inside your mate's heart, so that you know his or her needs, feelings, beliefs, interests, or tastes intimately.

Make The Promise

- Promise your mate that you will work to overcome your selfish tendencies.
- Promise your mate that you will look to Christ as your mentor and model.
- Promise your mate that you will trust Christ for all your needs, knowing that putting yourself in His hands will free you to change your focus from your own concerns to your mate's.
- Promise your mate that you will make it your project to know his or her needs and dreams, and that you will dedicate yourself to meeting those needs and making those dreams come true.

I Promise:
Marriage Constitution

Preamble: *When we wed I committed to love and cherish you all the days of my life, and I affirm that commitment today. I love you dearly, more than life itself. I honor you and place you above all other people in my life. My goal is to create in our marriage a place of security in which you and I can share everything in safety and honor without fear, and grow together in deeper love and intimacy. To confirm my commitment to this goal, I willingly make these five solemn promises to you:*

I PROMISE to conform my beliefs to God's truth. I will gain control of my outlook, emotions, and happiness by continually examining my deepest beliefs and striving to make them consistent with what God's Word says. I take sole responsibility for my beliefs, with what God's Word says. I take sole responsibility for my beliefs, with the understanding that they, not you, determine my emotions, words, thoughts, and actions. Thus, I lift from you the burden of being responsible for any of my ultimate life quality.

I PROMISE to be filled by God. I will keep God in my heart as my source of joy and love. My love for you will be His love flowing through me. And I will receive your love as overflow from Him. I will base the security of our marriage on making Christ my boss. I will strive to conform to His image and follow all His commands, especially the one to love you and care for you all the days of my life. *(Ephesians 5:25-26; Philippians 4:19)*

I PROMISE to find God's best in Everything. I give you the security of knowing that the negative things that happen in our marriage will not destroy my love for you. I will not expect perfection from you, but will use even the irritations between us as opportunities to see my blind spots and foster my personal growth. I will call on the power of Christ to root out my weaknesses. *(Romans 5:3-5 & 8:28; James 1:12)*

I PROMISE to listen & communicate with love. I will value every word you speak as a window to your heart. I will honor your opinions, feelings, needs, and beliefs so that you will feel free to speak honestly and openly with full security in my love for you. I will be open with you in communicating my heart and will consider your feelings and needs in all my words. I will help you solve every disagreement with me until you feel like a winner. *(Ephesians 4:29)*

I Promise:
Marriage Constitution Cont.

I PROMISE to serve you all the days of my life. I will fight all tendencies toward selfishness in me and focus on keeping you, your needs, and your goals before me at all times. I will continue to hide God's most important words in my heart... serving, you willingly and wholeheartedly, just as Christ served his disciples not only in small, humble ways but also by giving his life for them and for us as well. *(Galatians 5:13)*

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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