



THE POINT: Marriage is designed by God to display God in a way that nothing else does.

We finish our series, Focus on Five, this week. It is a marriage series based on the book *From This Day Forward* by Craig and Amy Groeschel, where we are looking at the five commitments necessary for any successful marriage. We have looked at four commitments; Seek God, Fight Fair, Have Fun, and Stay Pure.

The fifth and last commitment is to **Never Give Up**. We must understand that marriage is a big deal to God. When a couple speaks their vows, it is God who is joining them together, not a pastor. They are made one and you can't break apart what God has joined as one. Practical steps to stay one include the idea of "you reap what you sow, and you reap where you sow." In your marriage, sow compassion and grace, not negativity and harshness; sow into your marriage instead of your hobbies, your children, and things outside of your marriage. Focus on your five and never give up!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and discuss **Matthew 19:1-12**. How does Jesus' standard that in God's eyes a husband and wife are no longer two, but one effect your view of marriage and divorce and never giving up?
2. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
3. Do a reality check: Read **Galatians 6:7-9**. What and where are you sowing in your marriage currently? Are you pleased with your harvest or do you need to make some changes?
4. Do you tend to be more selfish or selfless with your spouse? Explain.
5. Describe a time when you encountered a tough time in your marriage? How did you get through it and how did that experience affect your marriage?
6. What are some specific things you've learned from this series that you are going to do to ensure that you and your spouse never give up in your marriage?

ACTION STEPS

- If you have not already, take the **FOCUS ON 5 Assessment for Married Couples** and discuss the results together.
- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?
- As a couple implement the two principles of sowing in your marriage:
 - Show compassion and grace to each other.
 - Plant your energy into your marriage above all else.
 - Cultivate what leads to life- pray for wisdom and work together on these principles and never give up!
 - Don't do it alone:
 - With the power of Jesus- through prayer and scripture.
 - With the help of others- HUDDLE- join 3 people of the same gender to pray, read the word, and mentor each other.
- As a couple, do the FOCUS ON 5 Week 5 Devotional for Married Couples.



THE POINT: Relationship with others are designed by God to display God in a way that nothing else does.

We continue our series Focus on Five this week. It is a marriage series, based on the book From This Day Forward by Craig and Amy Groeschel, where we are looking at the five commitments necessary for any successful relationship. We have looked at the first three commitments; Seek God, Fight Fair, Have Fun, and Stay Pure.

The fifth and last commitment is to **Never Give Up**. We must understand that relationships are a big deal to God. When God puts us in relationship with others whether family or friends it is a big deal. He wants us to function as one body in relationship with Him. Practical steps to stay one with each other and with God include the idea of “you reap what you sow, and you reap where you sow.” In your relationships with others sow compassion and grace, not negativity and harshness; sow into your relationships with God and with others instead of solely working on your hobbies and material things. Focus on your five and never give up!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and discuss **Matthew 19:1-12**. How does Jesus’ standard that in God’s eyes a husband and wife are no longer two, but one effect your view of marriage and divorce and never giving up?
2. What’s one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
3. Do a reality check: Read **Galatians 6:7-9**. What and where are you sowing in your relationships currently? Are you pleased with your harvest or do you need to make some changes?
4. Do you tend to be more selfish or selfless in your relationships? Explain.
5. Describe a time when you encountered a tough time in a relationship? How did you get through it and how did that experience affect the relationship?
6. What are some specific things you’ve learned from this series that you are going to do to ensure that you never give up on relationships with others?

ACTION STEPS

- If you are in a dating relationship and have not already, take the FOCUS ON 5 Assessment for Dating Couples and discuss the results together.
- What’s one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?
- Implement the two principles of sowing in your relationships:
 - Show compassion and grace to each other.
 - Plant your energy into your relationships above all else.
 - Cultivate what leads to life- pray for wisdom and work on these principles and never give up!
 - Don’t do it alone:
 - With the power of Jesus- through prayer and scripture.
 - With the help of others- HUDDLE- join 3 people of the same gender to pray, read the word, and mentor each other.
- Do the FOCUS ON 5 **Week 5 Devotional for Singles** with a friend or a mentor.