

DIGGING DEEPER: Neglect the Nuptials

THE MAIN THEME

Marriages thrive when couples continually nurture their vows and fight against the subtle “ninjas” that sabotage intimacy, unity, and safety.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Genesis 2:24–25 – “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”

Practical Use: Families can talk about how to nurture loyalty, unity, intimacy, and safety in their homes this week.

WHAT NOT TO MISS

- Neglecting marriage vows allows “ninjas” to sabotage the relationship.
- Nurture the call of leaving—loyalty and allegiance to your spouse above all others.
- Nurture the unity of covenant—diffuse bombs of division by keeping your vows.
- Nurture the oneness of sex—renew the covenant through intimacy.
- Nurture the feelings of safety—create an environment free of fear and shame.
- The Gospel heals brokenness and fills marriages with forgiveness, mercy, and unconditional love.

LIFE APPLICATION

Marriages are either neglected or nurtured. Left untended, “weeds” of baggage, division, seduction, and brokenness will choke intimacy and joy. But when couples invest in loyalty, unity, intimacy, and safety, their marriages flourish as testimonies of God’s grace.

This week, take stock of your marriage (or your walk with Christ, if single). Identify which areas you’ve neglected and make a plan to nurture them with intentional love, communication, and prayer.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

MONDAY – Leaving and Loyalty

READ: Genesis 2:24

REFLECT: Marriage requires leaving old allegiances to give first loyalty to your spouse.

RESPOND: Talk with your spouse (or journal if single) about any lingering “baggage” that might hinder full allegiance.

TUESDAY – Unity of Covenant

READ: Matthew 19:6

REFLECT: What God has joined together, let no one separate.

RESPOND: Recall your wedding vows (or baptismal vows if single). Pray to live them out faithfully this week.

WEDNESDAY – Oneness of Intimacy

READ: 1 Corinthians 7:3–5

REFLECT: Intimacy is a renewal of covenant love.

RESPOND: Plan intentional time to nurture closeness—emotionally, spiritually, or physically.

THURSDAY – Feelings of Safety

READ: Romans 8:1

REFLECT: In Christ there is no condemnation, only love and safety.

RESPOND: Ask your spouse or family member, “What makes you feel most safe and loved at home?”

FRIDAY – Fighting the Ninjas

READ: Ephesians 5:25–28

REFLECT: Christlike love fights against forces that sabotage marriage.

RESPOND: Write down one “ninja” (baggage, division, seduction, or shame) and pray for strength to fight it together.

FACILITATOR TIPS

- Use the “ninja” metaphor to help couples identify hidden struggles.
- Encourage both singles and couples to see Christ as the ultimate bridegroom.
- Guide conversations toward hope and redemption, not guilt.

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

As a group, commit to nurture marriages and relationships this week. Each couple should identify one way to invest in loyalty, unity, intimacy, or safety, and singles should commit to nurturing their covenant with Christ.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some “ninjas of nuptials” that threaten marriages today?
- Why is it difficult to leave old allegiances and give full loyalty to a spouse?
- How do vows strengthen a marriage beyond just being a ceremony formality?
- What are common “bombs of friction” in marriages, and how can they be diffused?
- How can intimacy be seen as covenant renewal rather than just physical union?
- What does it look like to create feelings of safety in a marriage or family?
- How does the Gospel transform brokenness into wholeness?
- How can singles apply the truths of loyalty, covenant, intimacy, and safety in their walk with Christ?
- Which area—loyalty, unity, intimacy, or safety—needs the most nurturing in your relationships?
- What practical steps can you take this week to fight neglect and nurture your vows?

PRAYER POINTS

CONNECT

- Pray for couples to connect deeply through loyalty and covenant love.
- Pray for singles to find their deepest connection in Christ.

CARE

- Pray for healing from past baggage and family pressures.
- Pray for marriages to be places of safety and care.

CULTIVATE

- Pray for stronger intimacy rooted in covenant renewal.
- Pray for families to nurture Christlike love and grace.

COMMISSION

- Pray for marriages to reflect the Gospel to neighbors and nations.
- Pray for the church to model covenant faithfulness in a broken world.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You for designing marriage as a covenant of love and safety. Forgive us for neglecting our vows and help us to nurture loyalty, unity, intimacy, and safety. Heal our brokenness by the Gospel, and empower us to reflect Your unconditional love in our marriages, families, and community. Amen.