

## Thy Kingdom Come: Marriage in the Kingdom

### Reflect

1. Jesus teaches us that marriage was created by God. Does our culture honor God in our marriages?
2. How do you think marriage is generally viewed in our culture?
3. Love itself is patient, humble, honorable and kind. Have you always been patient, humble, honorable and kind in love?

### Read Your Bible

- 1 Corinthians 13
- Matthew 19:1-12

### Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Describe some healthy marriages that you know of personally.
2. Describe a time when you may have placed conditions on showing love to others. Was it self-seeking? Impatient? Controlling? Jealous?
3. Describe your vision of marriage when you were growing up.
4. Describe your vision of a wedding when you were growing up.
5. Which one looked more like the kind of relationship God wants for us?
6. What does it mean to be fully known? Can we be fully known by our spouse?
7. What are some ways we can honor and build up marriages in our communities?

### Conclusion

Reading 1 Corinthians 13 can feel like a fairy tale. It is all about love, and as in every good fairy tale, true love conquers all. It brings to mind images of princesses and castles. But marriage isn't always glamorous like a princess at a ball. There can be times when married couples need to return to the basics and realize that if they don't have love, they are going nowhere. So when we start to feel like maybe we have found a frog instead of a prince, we can be sure in the Truth that God created us to love one another, and that He created this special bond of marriage so that we can deeply experience love in human relationships. God created us to love. God created us for relationships with Himself and with others. Marriage is a gift, and we should encourage and build up those we know in marriages so that they can be an example of how to love one another well in any relationship, and what God has brought together, let no one separate.

### Pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of marriage and the promise of Your love. Thank You for the spouses or future spouses You send into our lives. Please strengthen every marriage represented in reading this prayer and cover them with Your love and grace. Thank You for creating us in love and to love one another. Help us to honor You in our relationships. In Jesus' name. Amen.