



Lesson Three

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Many Christians have “go to” passages—Bible truths they turn to in times of need. Look at the following passages and identify why they might be meaningful to so many people.

Passage	Why is it meaningful?
<p>Matthew 28:20 - Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>	
<p>Psalms 23:1 - The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.</p>	
<p>Isaiah 43:1 - This is what the LORD says— “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”</p>	
<p>Do you have any “go to” passages that are particularly meaningful to you? If so, list one or two of them below. <i>(You don’t need to know the reference or have exact wording.)</i></p>	
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Marriage is a COMMITMENT to be...

- **Communicative**
- **Considerate**
- **Christ-like**

Before we dig into these three areas of commitment, here's a key reminder...

Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God's *chosen people, holy and dearly loved*, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the *new creation* has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Take special note of how the apostle Paul addresses God's believers (italicized words above). Answer either (or both) of the questions below:

For what reasons is this valuable for us to hear?

In what ways does this help us as we consider our commitment to our spouses?

Committed to Communicate

Take two minutes and scan through the verse below. Identify at least four biblical keys to healthy communication.

Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:25-27 - "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:15 - [Speak] the truth in love.

Colossians 3:12-14 - Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Consider this.... (Keys to Communication)

Words can _____ or _____.

Words _____.

Words are only _____ of our communication.

My greater goal is to better _____ my spouse rather than to be _____.

I can improve my communication by becoming a better _____.

Committed to be Considerate

1 Peter 3:7 – Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives

Peter directed this passage specifically at husbands. But it's certainly good and proper for both husbands and wives to be considerate to one another.

Remembering how important communication is and how beneficial it is to keep each other informed (and to be a good listener), write down at least three ways you could finish this thought:

“My husband/wife shows consideration for me when he/she...”

Committed to be Christ-like

When I speak and act more like Christ, I am....

- Honoring _____
- Honoring _____
- Touching _____

CLOSING EXERCISE

TWO things I've learned or TWO new perspectives I've gained from these sessions are:

TWO things I can do to make life easier for my spouse are:

TWO genuine compliments I can give to my spouse as we're driving home later today are:
