



The Vow of Priority Week 1

- What are the top three relationships you value most in your life right now? What three activities do you give the most time to in an average day? Do your activities support the relationships you value most? If so, how? If not, why do you think that is?

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:3 (NIV)

- Was there a time when you put a relationship with another person ahead of your relationship with God. If so, how did it affect your relationship with God?
- If someone, who didn't know you, observed all of your daily activities last week, what would they conclude are your top priorities?

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame

Genesis 2:24-25 (NIV)

- Prior to being married, the most important human relationship is with our parents. Have your priorities changed in your life after being married. If so, how?
- For those that are not married, describe which relationships are top priority in your life currently. How are those relationships impacting your life right now?

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

Ephesians: 5:25 (NIV)

- It is not only the negative things that can disrupt your priorities; it can often be the positive things too. What are the top three things (negative or positive) that currently have the most potential to disrupt your priorities?

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

- Are there specific changes you believe God is calling you to make so that he remains your number one priority? If so, what are they?

Final thought: If you are married, commit to pray together daily this week. Individually and in your group, pray and ask God to be first in your life and pray that He will give you the wisdom and strength to protect your priorities.



Group Discussion Questions

Week 1

The Vow of Priority Week 1

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What would be some effective ways to determine what is really a priority in your life?

Explore

Read Matthew 13: 44-46

- What is like treasure hidden in a field? How? (13:44)
- What is the kingdom of heaven like? Why? (13:44)
- Where was treasure hidden? (13:44)
- What happened when the man uncovered the hidden treasure? (13:44)
- How did the man feel when he discovered the treasure? (13:44)
- To what did Christ compare the kingdom of heaven? (13:45)
- What did the man in the parable find? (13:46)
- How valuable was the pearl? (13:47)
- How did the man who found the pearl react to its discovery? (13:47)

Reflect

- If we believe the gospel is true, why does it often seem so easy to be passive about our relationship with Christ?
- How can we maintain the joy and excitement we had when we first met Christ?
- When, if ever, has your relationship with Christ cost you something?
- What would you say to a someone who says that you can be a Christ follower without completely "selling out" to follow Christ?
- Other than buried treasure or a precious pearl, what illustrations could you use to explain the value of knowing Christ to others?

Apply

- Are there items in your own life that you need to "sell off" in order to focus your priorities on following Christ?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Ephesians 5:22-23. Spend time praying and ask God if He is truly your number one. Ask Him to show those things in your life that are competing for His place.

Day 2: Read Matthew 6:25-34. Ask God to center your focus again today on continuing to make Him number one in your life.

Day 3: Read Matthew 22:37-39. Pray, asking God to remove the distractions in your life that would keep you from making Him your top priority today.

Day 4: Read Genesis 2:24-25. Lift up in prayer those relationships most important in your life.

Day 5: Read Mark 12:28-34. Pray for those in your LifeGroup that they will make God the number one priority in their lives. Commit to God that you will do your part to help your group as a whole put God first.



Group Discussion Questions

Week 2

The Vow of Pursuit Week 2

- Name one thing in your life you are constantly pursuing? Examples could be a relationship, a dream, success or a financial goal. What are some specific ways in which you pursue this thing?

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24 (NIV)

...They are joined fast to one another; they cling together and cannot be parted

Job 41:17 (NIV)

- If you are married, what are some of the funny or special things you did while pursuing your spouse? (If you are not married, describe how you would like to be pursued.)

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

- Encouraging others through our words is key to any successful relationship. Discuss how well you encourage others in your various relationships such as your spouse, friends or children. What are some things you can do to help you be more encouraging with your words?

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

James 4:17 (NIV)

- Most of us have some good intentions that haven't been converted to good actions. What are some ways you could begin to close this gap?
- Describe a time when you did something special for someone you love such as your spouse, parent or child. How did it make you feel? How do you feel when someone does something special for you?

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

Luke 15:4 (NIV)

- Describe how God has pursued you in your life and how you have pursued Him. How has His pursuit of you changed and deepened your relationship with Him?

Final thought: With your group, pray and thank God for His relentless pursuit of your hearts. Thank Him for the transformation he has brought to your lives as a result of His pursuit.



Group Discussion Questions

Week 2

The Vow of Pursuit Week 2

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- Describe a time when you were lost from your family or a group as a child. How were you finally found?

Explore

Read Luke 15:1-7

- Who had gathered to hear Jesus? (15:1)
- What were the Pharisees and teachers of the law doing? (15:2)
- What did Jesus do instead of directly rebuking the religious leaders? (15:3)
- What does a conscientious shepherd do when one of the flock is lost? (15:4)
- How does a shepherd bring a lost sheep home? (15:5)
- What happens when a shepherd returns to his home and flock after finding a lost sheep? (15:6)
- How does heaven react when a sinner repents? (15:7)
- What causes God to rejoice most? (15:7)
- What kind of people do not need to repent? (15:7)

Reflect

- Why did the religious leaders miss the point of what Jesus' ministry was about?
- Why did Jesus choose a parable about sheep to make His point?
- How might the one sheep have gotten lost?
- In what ways do we sometimes go astray?
- In what situations are you most tempted to stray from God?

Apply

- What can you do this week to help or "pursue" another believer who may be straying from their relationship with God?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read the story of how Jacob pursued Rachel in Genesis 29. For couples, pray that God will keep the fire burning in your marriage and that you will continue to pursue each other. Pray for your spouse. For singles, ask God to continue to pursue you and promise to pursue Him.

Day 2: Read Hebrews 3:13. Ask for God's assistance in speaking words of encouragement in all of your relationships.

Day 3: Read James 4:17. Confess to God those times when you knew you should have done good, but did not. Ask for His forgiveness. Seek God's help in doing what is right in all areas of your life.

Day 4: Read Luke 15:1-7. Thank God for the transformation He has done in your life and for His continued pursuit of you.

Day 5: Read Romans 12:2. Ask God to continue to transform your mind so you may focus on following His ways above all else.



The Vow of Partnership Week 3

- A covenant partnership is based on mutual commitment, but sometimes selfish desires can get in the way. What is one area of your life where you tend to focus less on others and more on yourself? How does an inward focus affect your relationships with others?

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24 (NIV)

...A cord of three strands is not quickly broken

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

- Many times personal differences can lead to conflict in relationships. Think of a time when personal differences resulted in strained relationship. How might those differences have been worked through to produce a stronger relationship?
- How can differences sometimes compliment each other, resulting in a whole greater than the sum of it's two parts?
- What does the word covenant mean to you? Describe some examples of covenant relationship you have seen in your own experience.

Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.

Luke 11:17-18 (NIV)

- Are you more naturally dominant or passive? If you're more dominant by nature, how can you grow more submissive to God and those around you? If you're more passive, are there areas of your life where God might be calling you to be more assertive?
- What are some of personality traits of yours that tend to cause conflict in your relationships? How do you think God would like to re-mold these traits to bring unity instead of conflict to your relationships?

Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

Psalms 34:3 (NIV)

- Successful individuals and families, both will have a vision (driven by core values). What are four to seven core values that drive you personally? Your family? Think of things like generosity, compassion, integrity, etc.

Final thought: With your group, lift up all of your most important relationships to God in prayer. Pray for marriages, relationships with children, parents, and friends.



Group Discussion Questions

Week 3

The Vow of Partnership Week 3

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- How have the roles of husbands and wives changed over the last 20 years?
- What do you remember most vividly about your parents' relationship?

Explore

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

- What are some of the challenges of being a wife? (3:1)
- Why did Peter encourage wives to submit to their husbands? (3:1-2)
- What qualities can a believing wife use to witness to an unbelieving husband? (3:1-2)
- What kinds of beauty can a woman have? (3:3-4)
- What is the disadvantage of a woman's outward beauty? (3:3-6)
- What example did Peter set forth for wives to follow? (3:6)
- What are some of the challenges of being a husband? (3:7)
- Why should husbands treat their wives with respect? (3:7)

Reflect

- How are the responsibilities of wives and husbands different?
- What does it mean to be submissive to another person? What does it not mean?
- How might the way a man treats his wife hinder his prayers?
- Why is the husband-wife relationship so important?
- What are some steps every spouse can take to honor his or her partner?

Apply

- If you are married, what are some specific things you can do this week to create a stronger partnership and be a better spouse? If you are single, how can you be preparing yourself now to be the kind of spouse God may call you to be someday?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Ephesians 5:21-24. If you are married, pray that God will continue to help you submit to your spouse just as you submit to Him. If you are single, pray and commit to God that you will continue to submit to His authority.

Day 2: Read Luke 11:17-18. Ask God to heal any relationships you have that may be suffering due to conflict.

Day 3: Read Psalm 34:3. Commit to God in prayer that you will develop a vision and core values for yourself and/or your family. Ask God to help reveal that vision.

Day 4: Read Ecclesiastes 4:12. Ask God to help use the differences you have with your spouse or in other relationships to make those relationships stronger..

Day 5: Read 1 Peter 3:1-7: Ask God to strengthen all of your key relationships such as your spouse, children, parents and friends.



The Vow of Purity Week 4

- Describe a time when you or someone you know had a relationship damaged by a secret. What happened when the truth was revealed?

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 2:24-25 (NIV)

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves...and they hid from the LORD... But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Genesis 3:7-10 (NIV)

- Adam and Eve apparently hid out of embarrassment or shame. Different people "hide" because of different reasons. What struggles do you have with being transparent in your relationships?
- One of Satan's weapons is the "shame game." It starts with your experiencing something deeply painful or sinful. You then connect what happened to who you are. Finally, you believe the only way to be safe is to hide. How has Satan used the "shame game" in your own life? Were you able to overcome the shame? If so, how did you overcome it?

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16 (NIV)

- Describe a time when you confessed a secret or a sin to a fellow believer. How did that confession start the process of healing in your life?

... you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die... Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.

Revelation 3:1-3 (NIV)

- What is one area of your life that you are still striving for purity in? Be honest. Share with your group how they can pray for you.
- What is your most valuable take-away from the past four weeks of studying "The Vow"?

Final thought: If you are married, take a few minutes to pray together. Ask God to empower you to love your spouse with an authentic and transparent intimacy. Commit to confess any secret sins or shame. If you are single, commit to sharing any secret sins or shame with a close same sex friend, pastor or counselor. Pray with your group that you will all encourage each other to pursue only God's best in all areas of life.



Group Discussion Questions

Week 4

The Vow of Purity Week 4

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- How much do you think people's view of purity is influenced by what they watch on television, see in movies or hear in music.

Explore

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

- What did Paul urge his audience to do? (4:1)
- By what authority did Paul give his instructions? (4:2)
- How is the Christian's sexual conduct to be different from that of the non-Christian? (4:4-5)
- How did Paul characterize the heathen? (4:5)
- When people ignore or reject God's instructions on sexual behavior, what are they rejecting? (4:8)
- What command of God were the Thessalonians known for obeying? (4:9-10)
- What ambition were the Thessalonians to pursue? (4:11-12)
- What is the result of living a quiet, respected, and responsible life? (4:11-12)

Reflect

- How often do we need to be reminded about God's instructions for our lives?
- How would you respond to someone who says it is possible to be a good Christian while also being sexually immoral?
- How can we wrong a person through impure, sexual behavior?
- What is a holy life?
- What motivates you to live a life that is pure and holy?

Apply

- What are some things you can or currently do to maintain purity in all of your relationships.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Genesis 3:7-10. Spend time praying about any shame you may be dealing with in your life. Pray for those you know who are dealing with shame. Ask for healing.

Day 2: Read Ephesians 5:8-14. Focus your prayer on asking God to assist you in dealing with any areas of impurity in your life. Ask for His forgiveness in these areas of your life.

Day 3: Read James 5:16. Confess to God any sins you have been holding back. Have an open and honest conversation with God regarding these sins.

Day 4: Read Revelation 3:1-3. Spend time in prayer thanking God for what he has done in your life. Thank Him for his forgiveness and strength to live a life of purity. Praise Him during this time.

Day 5: Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12. Pray for those you know are struggling with impurity in their lives