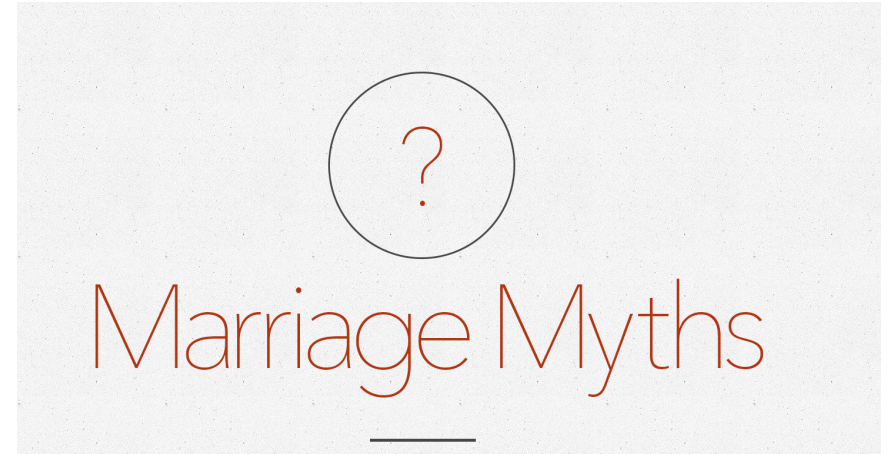


a week and grow spiritually, work on the marriage, do home chores, have a family night, build a deepening relationship with each child, and so on. Something has to go!”—Dennis Rainey

E. Use a master family _____ and live by it

F. Meet regularly to _____ how you’re doing

Conclusion: _____



Today’s Lesson:

Time Together Myth:

quality time together is more important than the quantity of time together

Why we believe it:

We allow the pace of our culture to so fill our schedules and divert our attention that we hurry through life only allowing for sporadic times to connect with one another. When those times come around, we attempt to compensate for their infrequentness by making them as grand as possible.

What the Bible says about it:

1 PETER 3:7A

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge....

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:3, 4, 6, 10, 14, 16

³ As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

⁴ He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. ⁶ His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me. ¹⁰ My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. ¹⁴ O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely. ¹⁶ My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.”



PROVERBS 5:20

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

EPHESIANS 5:18

*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.***Introduction:** _____

QUOTE

“It take considerably less time to maintain a living relationship than it does to repair a broken one.”— Zig Ziglar

1. The Importance of Enjoying Time Together

Six realities about time together:

A. Time together provides a remedy for stress

MARK 6:31 - 32

*³¹ And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. ³² And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.**Quote ~“It matters not how great the pressure is, only where the pressure lies. As long as the pressure does not come between me and my Savior, but presses me to Him, then the greater the pressure, the greater my dependence upon Him.”—J. Hudson Taylor*

B. Time together places value on our relationship

MATTHEW 6:21

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**Quote ~“Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of oneself.”— Unknown**Quote ~“The busier we are, the more important we seem to ourselves and, we imagine, to others. To be unavailable to our friends and family...to whiz through our obligations without time for a single mindful breath—this has become the model of a successful life.”—Wayne Muller*

Six important practices:

A. Identify your values and priorities _____

B. Rein-in your _____ schedules

Husbands: Don't give all your energy to your job, leaving little left over for your family**Wives:** Is a job the best use of your time? Will you have more influence for the future through your employment or through your children?

TITUS 2:4 - 5

⁴ That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

If you feel you must work here are some guidelines:

1. A mother should have a job only if her husband is in total agreement.
2. A mother should consider how much of her capabilities, time, energy, and creativity she gives to work.
3. A mother should consider her child's needs.

If Both Work: Make choices carefully, simplify, don't waster time, be a team, and communicate.*Quote ~“I firmly believe that most children will get off to a better start in life when they spend the majority of their waking hours being cared for by their parents.”—Burton White, Child Development Expert*

C. _____ time wasters

D. Scrutinize every _____ commitment

Quote ~“No one does it all. No one can have a busy social life five nights

C. Time together reconnects us with one another

GENESIS 2:22

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”

D. Time together provides opportunities for laughter

PROVERBS 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Quote ~*“The joy of courtship, coupled with romance and laughter, usually characterizes dating, but this joy can quickly dry up after marriage.*

Courtship, romance, and laughter go hand in hand because they demand focus. That’s why we need to make it a priority in marriage to find ways to participate in the fun, laugh-generating antics we did when we first dated. That means we must flee from the television, telephone, and computer and focus on each other.”—Dennis Rainey

Quote ~*“Laughter is a gift given to help us keep life in balance, to put the ‘frosting’ on the joy that God has promised us even in the middle of difficult times.”—Dennis Rainey*

E. Time together creates lasting memories

- Memories are best made with those you love being with
- Memories take time
- Memories are made of varied adventures
- Memories are both planned and unplanned
- Memories are celebrated

F. Time together provides needed rest

EXODUS 34:21

Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

2. The Investments to Make for Time Together

Seven great investments:

A. Worship the Lord together as a family

HEBREWS 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

B. Date your spouse weekly

C. Enjoy a family night at home weekly

D. Spend time one-on-one with each of your children _____

E. Schedule a getaway as a _____

Three purposes for your getaway:

- Time together with each other and with God
- Planning (calendar)
- Romance and pure pleasure

F. Make the _____ of holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries

Quote ~*“Establishing holiday traditions in your family cements your marriage and family identity.”—Dennis Rainey*

G. Enjoy an _____ family vacation

3. The _____ for Scheduling Time Together