

HELPING MARRIAGES IN YOUR GROUP

CHRIS & CHARLIE PILGER

NO VACANCY

Jeff, Asia, Allison (17), Liam (13) & Lauren (5)



NO VACANCY

Steven & Jacquie



Daniel



NO VACANCY

All of Us



Maggie May



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“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Cor 12:9a

“We lead people from our strengths, but we connect with them through our weaknesses.”

Jeannie Mayo, Cadre

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HOW DO WE HELP?

We become aware of an issue in our group:

- **Pray**
- **Make sure they know it a safe place for them**
- **Listen to understand, not evaluate**
- **Empathize & acknowledge their situation**
- **Encourage where you can**
- **Be patient**
- **Remember.....God is the only one who can change hearts and transform lives...**

WE CAN NOT.

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WE HAVE SUPERNATURAL HELP

- The whole Bible is about relationships
- Remind them of the Gospel and its power
- Point them to the truth of God's Word
- We can't produce spiritual fruit ourselves without God's help
- God's Spirit is in us

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

**Be confident that God can use you to
help**

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FIRST AID TO HELP COUPLES

Assess the Situation/Ask some questions

- Find out their back story/family background/faith Journey
- Why is this issue concerning to them?
- Is their spouse aware that you're meeting with them?
- Are they pointing fingers at their spouse?
- Are they willing to take responsibility for their part in the conflict?
- Are they coming with different ideas and fighting to get their own way?

Or

- Do they show they can make decisions together?

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CHECKING VITALS: IMPORTANT & NECESSARY THINGS

Loving Communication

Eph. 4:15a ... "Speaking the Truth in Love"

- **Communication is Always on Two Levels: Truth is the Content, Love is the Relational**
 - Do they Interrupt each other, cut each other off?
 - Do they Listen to Understand each other or to Evaluate?
 - Listen for Bitterness, Selfishness, Pride
 - Do they show humility?

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IMPORTANT & NECESSARY THINGS

- **TEACHABILITY: Willingness to Accept Correction and Learn from it - Humility is essential**
 - How do they accept words that may be hard for them to hear?
 - Do they want to change?
 - Will they take responsibility for their part?

“Better is an open reprimand (of loving correction) than love that is hidden. Faithful are the wounds of a friend who corrects out of love and concern.” Prov 27:5-6a

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“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.”

James 4:1-2

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IMPORTANT & NECESSARY THINGS

- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

- **Feelings are real and important; we can't change how someone feels. Validate their feelings.**
- **Men and women are different and may deal with things differently**
- **What may seem small to one person may seem big to another**

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IMPORTANT & NECESSARY THINGS

- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION: FORGIVENESS**
 - I'm sorry isn't the same thing as asking for forgiveness
 - We aren't all well trained to ask for forgiveness
 - We need to ask forgiveness for specific offenses
 - Forgiveness is a process; some individuals forgive easier than others
 - Hurt and bitterness take time to heal

HOPE: HEALING BEGINS

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HEALING & RENEWED HEALTH

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Phil 4:8

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HEALING & RENEWED HEALTH

- **ONENESS IS GOD'S DESIGN**
 - Awareness throughout marriage to recognize the drift away from each other
 - Awareness that we can easily believe lies; remember what is true
 - Look for positives or things to encourage each other
 - My spouse is not my enemy; we're on the same team

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HEALTHY

ONENESS ONLY HAPPENS WITH:

- LOVING COMMUNICATION
- TEACHABILITY (HUMILITY)
- RESOLVING CONFLICT
- FORGIVENESS
- THE DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD A THRIVING,
GOD-HONORING MARRIAGE

GOD MAY USE YOU TO BE PART OF THIS!

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QUESTIONS?

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