

### Getting Started

- Do you tend to trust others? Would you describe yourself as a trustworthy person?
- How would you complete this statement ...

When I withdraw trust and stop taking chances on people I \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion

- In Luke 6:12-16, Jesus prayed all night before he called The Twelve to be his apostles. When you consider the kind of people that Jesus selected, why do you think he called these men? Did he choose poorly?

Since we can't make someone else trustworthy, the only option we have is to pray, "Lord, change me".

- Discuss the relationship between the 4 words that Pastor Lee defined on Sunday and how they help to build trust within a relationship.

Commitment

Consistency

Predictable

Trust

- Why is it so important to be keep your commitments in even the little things? (Matthew 5:37)
- Share any "commitments" between you and your spouse and/or other key relationships where you say, "Yes, I am committed to \_\_\_\_\_, but/unless/until \_\_\_\_\_."
- Respond to the results of the Barna survey ...
  - a. For couples who pray together, divorce is 1 out of 1200.
  - b. For couples who read the Bible together, divorce is 1 out of 1100.
- If married, what commitments have you made (are you prepared to make) with your spouse? Consider spiritual issues, communication, finances, relationships with opposite sex, social media/technology, etc. How are you doing with these?
- We know that people will fail us so our focus should not be on others to meet our expectations but instead focus on the One who will never fail us. In what ways does Hebrews 13:5-6 encourage you?
- How can you work toward building trust in an abusive or dysfunctional relationship?

What truths and commitments are stated as part of this Marriage Covenant?

*Believing that God, in His wisdom and providence, has established marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman, a sacred and lifelong promise, reflecting our unconditional love for one another and believing that God intends for our marriage covenant to reflect His promise to never leave us nor forsake us, We, the undersigned, do hereby affirm our solemn pledge to fulfill our marriage vows. Furthermore, we pledge to exalt the sacred nature and permanence of the marriage covenant by calling others to honor and fulfill their marriage vows.*

*In the presence of God and these witnesses, and by a holy covenant, I \_\_\_\_\_, joyfully receive you as God's perfect gift for me, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love you, to honor you, to cherish you and to protect you, forsaking all others as long as we both shall live.*

### Prayer

Join us on 9/21 for our Fresh Encounter Prayer Gathering, 7pm in the Loft, as we pray for our relationships, marriages, and families.

Join us for the next 30 days as we pray for our marriages and families. If you do not receive the daily email prayer chain, contact Pastor Mike ([medelman@cfdowningtown.com](mailto:medelman@cfdowningtown.com)) to get started.

Join our Sunday Morning Prayer Team and intercede for others in our church family. Contact Pastor Mike.

Write a prayer request on the prayer wall in the Prayer Chapel. There are helpful prayer cards to guide your praying for your wife, husband, marriage, children and family. These cards are filled with scriptures that guide you to begin praying God's Word.

Stormie Omartian has a number of excellent books related to this series.

- The Power of a Praying Husband
- The Power of a Praying Wife
- The Power of a Praying Parent
- The Power of Praying for Your Adult Children
- The Power of Praying for Your Grandchildren