

## Making Marriage a Home for God!

*“...Loving me empowers you to obey my word. And my Father will love you so deeply that we will come to you and make you our dwelling place. **John 14:23 TPT***



Loving Jesus as your Lord and Savior is the first step in opening your heart to God, who is Love **1 John 4:19**, to come in and make you His dwelling place. Our heavenly Father already sees us through the finished work of the cross as His sons and daughters. He has always loved us and always will regardless of what we have done, are doing right now, or may do in the future (good or bad!) Because Father’s “Hesed” Love is already in each of us, when we get married and the two become one flesh that same attachment love of God now has the opportunity to dwell in us as a couple!

I believe that was Father’s plan for all His children to follow in their life. We would all start receiving His Hesed love while in heaven before we entered our mother’s womb **Jer. 1:5**. This love in our spirit would then be nurtured and mature through growing up in a loving family. This love would reach its ultimate fulfillment when we would marry a spouse filled with this same hesed love and we would begin the love cycle again with our own children.



Unfortunately, because of the fall of man in the Garden, Father’s plan got messed up! Adam and Eve’s disobedience and the knowledge of good and evil have caused man to pull away from God and take control of his own life. The result has been that the pain, suffering, devaluing of life, division, strife, and negative emotions dominate the world and disrupt the love, joy, and peace Father wants in every marriage. The damage continues as hurting people hurt other people, make bad choices, and are easily offended!

That’s what Sue and I experienced in the first part of our marriage. Like most couples, we expected that our spouse would be able to take care of all our love needs and we would experience this wonderful, joy-filled, carefree life together forever! Soon after our marriage, however, things began to slowly go downhill, and life together became more stressful and unfulfilling. I even got to the point of wondering if I wanted to continue in this relationship at all. Thankfully, Sue never gave up or stopped praying, and Father has healed our hearts and wounds in our relationship. Now we have the marriage of our dreams and enjoy life together more than ever before! PTL!



As I look back on our marriage over the years, there are some things that I have seen that have helped us turn our marriage into a home where Father could come and dwell.

**1. Make love the priority in your life and marriage.** My heart was more wounded than Sue’s because of what happened between me and my father and how I responded to him. I became an orphan in my own home, shut down my emotions and feelings, turned to pornography to comfort my pain, and withdrew to avoid more pain from rejection. It wasn’t until I forgave my father and mother, released the debt, and invited Jesus to take control of my life that my heart began to heal, and I began to experience Father’s hesed love for me. With His love growing inside of me, I was able to love Sue with my whole heart. Sue also was able to forgive her parents and receive more of His hesed love in her heart too. We both now had more love to give

to each other and we began to look for ways to make the other person feel loved. We also began to see each other with God's eyes which made it easier to forgive and forget about the things that used to bring division and strife between us.

**2. Let love be the motivator of everything you do and how you respond to your spouse and family.** The longer we live the more we are convinced that everything is affected by the attitude in our heart. As our hearts fill with more of His love, it has become easier to forgive each other and stay relational even when the other person is dealing with negative or big emotions. We can love our two sons even when they have responded in ways that have hurt us. We can give them the unconditional hesed love that we are now receiving from our heavenly Father. Also, I've been able to walk away from the false lover of pornography and start loving myself because now I'm aware of His comforting love in me.

**3. Create an atmosphere of love in your marriage and home.** Homes can be the most difficult place to live because we don't have to keep our guard up or try to impress someone. There's nothing to stop us from being selfish, prideful, domineering, or mean. We can make all the rules without concern for the other people there. This opens the door to every evil work! **Jam. 3:16** However, we can chose to turn our marriage and home into a place of love where everyone feels equally loved; all are given space to discover and express their true self and passions; peace and joy are commonly experienced; and love controls everything that is said or done. The table where you eat is a place of intimacy, friendship, and community where everyone can feel safe and be seen, heard, and understood. Children need to be celebrated, cherished, and cared for. They need to have space to grow and discover their true self.



So begin today and invite Father to come into your lives and make Himself feel at home in your marriage and family!

For more helpful ideas and resources, check out the **Marriage Encouragements** tab on our website <https://www.abbasarmsintl.org/category/marriage-encouragements/>

## **Dialogue Questions**

1. Give each other this question on a piece of paper, "What are 5 things that I have done that make you feel loved?" Be specific and explain why that made you feel loved and how that impacted your heart. Exchange papers and discuss your answers as you look into their eyes.
2. What are some things that we could do to make Father feel more welcome in our marriage and/or your family? Make a list and pick one to start working on together!

## ***Fun Night Ideas***

1. Take a walk in the woods and passionately kiss each other several times during the walk. Find a log she can stand on and press your bodies together leaning against each other. Then stop on the way home for a special coffee, or get an appetizer or dessert with two spoons, or order some other treat you both like and share it together.