



TIGHTEN The Knot

- The strength of your marriage isn't measured by your **feelings**, but rather your **commitment**.
- When it comes to your marriage, God is more concerned with your **direction** than **perfection**.

The big principle:

- By nature, we **pursue** what we **don't** have.

We tighten the knot when:

- We need to have shared **pursuits**.

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 (NIV)

16 For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (TLB)

- We **pursue God** together.

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)

33 But seek **first his kingdom** and **his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

4 In his pride the wicked does not **seek (God)**; in all his thoughts there is no room for God...6 He says to himself, "Nothing will shake me; I'll always be happy and never have trouble." Psalm 10:4,6 (NIV)

Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. 1 Chronicles 28:9 (NLT)

We pursue God when we:

- **Pray** together.

14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

- Read the **Bible** together.
- Talk about what God is doing in your **life**.

We tighten the knot when:

- We continue to **pursue** each other.

Genesis 29

We pursue each other:

- When you think something **good**, **say it**.

²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death... Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)

1 How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of an artist's hands. ² Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. ³ Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle. Songs 7:1-3 (NIV)

- Pursue them with words of **affirmation**.

- Pursue them with words of **affection**.

3 What matters is not your outer appearance—the styling of your hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes— 4 but your inner disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in. 1 Peter 3:3-4 (MSG)

- When you think something **special**, **do it**.

31 "Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! Luke 6:31 (MSG)

4...The love you had at first is gone. 5 Remember how far you have fallen. Return to me and change the way you think and act, and do what you did at first. Revelation 2:4-5 (GWT)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday?
- Did you do anything to tighten the knot in your marriage this week? Explain.
- Do you feel that you continue to pursue your spouse? What does that mean to you?
- How does pursuing God tighten the knot in our marriage?
- Why is it that our feelings are not a good gauge to establish the strength of our marriage?
- Why do you think that God is more concerned with the direction of our marriage, rather than the perfection?
- Do you feel that you and your spouse currently pursue God together? Why is this important?
- What are some of the ways that we can pursue God with our spouse?
- Why is it important that we continue to pursue our spouse?
- How does pursuing our spouse tighten the knot in our marriage?
- When you think something good about your spouse, do you say it?
- How do we pursue our spouse with words of affirmation and words of affection?
- When you think of doing something special, do you do it?
- From these notes, what will you do to tighten the knot this week?

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