7-Day Marriage Devotional + Challenge

___Day 1: Praying Together as a Couple

- **Key Verse:** *Matthew 18:20* "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
- Praying together strengthens your spiritual bond and invites God into your marriage.
- **Challenge:** Set aside time today to pray with your spouse about your marriage, family, and future.
- Prayer Focus: Pray that God strengthens your relationship and helps you grow spiritually as a couple.

__Day 2: Listening with Love

- **Key Verse:** James 1:19 "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."
- PReflection: Communication is not just about talking; it's about listening with patience and understanding.
- Challenge: Take time today to listen to your spouse without interrupting or reacting emotionally.
- ♣ Prayer Focus: Pray for the ability to listen with a compassionate heart and to seek understanding in your marriage.

___Day 3: Handling Conflict with Grace

- **Key Verse:** Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
- PReflection: Conflict is inevitable in marriage, but how we respond makes all the difference. Choosing kindness over harshness brings peace and understanding.
- **Challenge:** When a disagreement arises, take a deep breath, pause, and respond with a gentle and respectful tone.
- ♣ Prayer Focus: Ask God to help you and your spouse handle conflicts with grace and wisdom.

___Day 4: The Power of Words

- **Key Verse:** Ephesians 4:29 "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."
- PReflection: Words have the power to bring life or destruction to a marriage. Speaking words of encouragement and love strengthens your bond.
- **Challenge:** How can you intentionally use your words to uplift and encourage your spouse today?
- Prayer Focus: Ask God to help you speak words of life and encouragement in your marriage.

___Day 5: The Power of Forgiveness

- **Key Verse:** Colossians 3:13 "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."
- PReflection: Holding onto resentment can create distance in marriage. True intimacy comes when we forgive as Christ forgave us.
- **Challenge:** If there's something you need to forgive your spouse for, take a step toward healing today.
- Prayer Focus: Ask God to help you release bitterness and extend forgiveness freely.

__Day 6: Serving One Another in Love

- **Key Verse:** Galatians 5:13 "Serve one another humbly in love."
- PReflection: A marriage thrives when both spouses serve each other selflessly, reflecting Christ's love.
- **Challenge:** Find a small but meaningful way to serve your spouse today (e.g., making them coffee, running an errand, or giving a heartfelt compliment).
- A Prayer Focus: Pray for a servant's heart and a willingness to put your spouse's needs above your own.

___Day 7: Keeping Christ at the Center

- **Key Verse:** Ecclesiastes 4:12 "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."
- Reflection: A marriage built on Christ is stronger and more resilient. When both spouses seek Him, they grow closer to each other.
- **Challenge:** Discuss ways you and your spouse can keep Christ at the center of your marriage, such as attending church together, reading Scripture, or praying together.
- ♣ Prayer Focus: Ask God to be the foundation of your marriage and to strengthen your love through His grace.