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<p>Theme: Meaning of marriage</p>	<p>Date: 10 October 2012</p>
<p>Scripture: Matthew 19:4-6 (TNIV)</p> <p>“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”</p> 	<p>Comment:</p> <p>I’ve been inspired by the excellent series on the BBC: Love & Marriage in the 20th Century (you can still catch some of it on BBCiPlayer). There have been wonderful stories of love in tough times, romance and the enduring nature of marriage between a man and a woman.</p> <p>I guess it’s not surprising really since God invented marriage.</p> <p>Many people today expect too much of marriage. That it will fulfill all their longings, hopes and dreams...that’s a lot to ask of a marriage partner. For others it’s a worthless piece of paper.</p> <p>I find security in the commitment we have for each other. I find joy in our friendship and intimacy. I find that God’s view of Marriage continually challenges me to grow. What does YOUR marriage mean to you?</p>
<p>Prayer (as a couple):</p> <p>Heavenly Father, thank you that you have given us the gift of marriage. We want to thank you especially for... in our own marriage. Help us to make our marriage strong and something that radiates your kind of love, commitment and faithfulness to each other and to people around us. Amen.</p>	<p>Prayer (for others):</p> <p>Heavenly Father, we pray for ... and ... We thank you for their marriage. Help them to come to know the beauty and depth of Christian marriage. Help them to have a marriage that is loving, committed, faithful and strong through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>
<p>Final quote: Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25)</p>	

For more on this subject go to: [BBCiplayer](http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/programmes/b01n3wvx)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/programmes/b01n3wvx/episode/b01n3wvx/Love_and_Marriage_A_20th_Century_Romance_To_Have_and_to_Hold/

Remember others will also be praying in this way this week. Together and with God we can make a difference.

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