



*Outrageously Committed
to My Marriage*

52 DEVOTIONS

JESUS-CENTERED DEVOTIONS





*Outrageously Committed
to My Marriage*

52 DEVOTIONS

JESUS-CENTERED DEVOTIONS



JESUS-CENTERED DEVOTIONS

We: Outrageously Committed to My Marriage

Copyright © 2017 Group Publishing, Inc.

The story on page 249 is copyright © 2016 Nappaland Communications Inc. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission. Nappaland.com.

group.com

Credits

Senior Editor: Candace McMahan

Contributing Editors: Stephanie Hillberry, Mikal Keefer, Rick Lawrence, Candace McMahan

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Assistant Editor: Lyndsay Gerwing

Art Director: Amy Taylor

Production Artist: Amy Taylor

Cover Art: Amy Taylor

Production Manager: Melissa Towers

No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit group.com/permissions.

To protect the privacy of the individuals who have shared their stories, the names used in this book are pseudonyms, with the exceptions of the names in the stories on pages 129, 241, and 249.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture taken from the *Holy Bible*, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from the *ESV® Bible* (The *Holy Bible*, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked MSG are taken from THE MESSAGE, copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Scripture quotations marked “NKJV” are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015 Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Group Publishing.

Title: *We : outrageously committed to my marriage.*

Description: First American Paperback [edition]. | Loveland, Colorado : Group Publishing, Inc., 2017.

Series: Jesus-centered devotions

Identifiers: LCCN 2017002026 | ISBN 9781470748463 (pbk.)

Subjects: LCSH: Married people--Religious life. | Married people--Prayers and devotions.

Classification: LCC BV4596.M3 W4 2017 | DDC 248.8/44--dc23 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017002026>

ISBN 978-1-4707-4846-3

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17

Printed in China.

Table of Contents

	Introduction	5
1	I've Been Married Four Times— but Always to the Same Woman	9
2	Bargaining With God	15
3	Kicked Out	19
4	Diary of a Marriage	23
5	A Fairy Tale	27
6	Amnesia	33
7	Changing Expectations	37
8	Expecting Perfection	43
9	Drifting Apart	49
10	In-Laws	53
11	Instinct	59
12	Our Fifth Anniversary	63
13	The Miracle of Our Marriage	69
14	Friends	75
15	Prayer	79
16	Giving Up on a Dream	83
17	Three Cords	87
18	Does God Need Help?	93
19	Porn	97
20	The Living Word of God	101
21	Details	105
22	Infidelity	109
23	Letting Mistakes Happen	113

24	Honesty	117
25	Scapegoat	121
26	Divorce	125
27	Jesus, the Namer	129
28	The Longest Nights	137
29	Finding the “Right One”	141
30	Two Approaches	145
31	Unpredictable	149
32	Confronting the Boogeyman	153
33	Healing	159
34	Who Do You Trust?	163
35	Burdens	169
36	Inviting Jesus	173
37	Sex, Rejection, and Risk	177
38	Spiritual Leadership	183
39	Looking for Nothing in Return	187
40	Spiritual Warfare	191
41	Sacrifice	195
42	Marrying Again	199
43	Walking Away From Faith	205
44	Surveillance	211
45	What About Sex?	215
46	When Tragedy Strikes	221
47	Jesus Broke Into My Marriage	225
48	Empty	231
49	Sustainer	237
50	Awe	241
51	Boundaries	245
52	Angry at God	249
53	Your Story	253

Marriage can be...challenging.

And it's easy to understand why.

Marriage requires two people, each with unique quirks and differences, to somehow become one.

Even if you marry someone who seems a lot like you, he or she arrives with a set of expectations and values that may be—probably are—different from your own.

Add to *that* challenge the reality that we're not perfect ourselves. We show up at the altar packing some baggage, too.

Plus, life never turns out quite as expected. People get sick. They lose jobs. They clash with in-laws, give in to temptations, and find themselves addicted. And when life gets hard, fixing what's broken can be doubly difficult when navigating the issues with someone else.

Finally, there's this: Our culture urges us to bail out when the going gets tough.

"Don't throw your life away." "He'll never change." "There are other fish in the sea;

why stay with that tuna?” Much of the advice we hear involves cutting our losses.

And there are times that’s exactly the right thing to do: Get out. Get away. If you’re in a truly abusive situation—emotionally, physically, or sexually—put down this book and get help. Now.

But if your situation is not abusive, consider this: Some people remain outrageously committed to their marriages. They strap in and stand firm in the face of adultery, infertility, bankruptcy, and chronic illness. And in some cases, their marriages not only survive but also thrive.

But how? How is that even possible?

We interviewed a wide range of married Christians, women *and* men, searching for an answer to that question. We’ve captured their stories here.

We were humbled by their honesty. You will be, too.

All of them, to a person, faced hardships in their marriages that we couldn’t see from the

outside. Like your marriage, like *every* marriage, there's more to each story than meets the eye.

And we discovered this: Jesus met these people along the way—when their marriages were challenging, when they were joyful, when they were shaken so hard by tragedy that their marriages seemed to be unraveling.

In these 52 stories, you'll catch sight of how Jesus enters into marriages like yours. Sometimes he prompts transformation. Sometimes he ushers in healing. And sometimes he offers consolation in the midst of heartbreak.

But always, always, *always* he brings hope.

So have hope. The Jesus who's outrageously committed to your marriage is also outrageously committed to you.

You're not alone.





Marriage is an epic story—complete with love, humor, and trials—lived out by courageous, flawed people.



In this book, brave husbands and wives share 52 true stories of their loving but not-so-perfect marriages. You'll experience renewed hope—and find real wisdom—as you read how Jesus brings life from the ashes of hard times, keeping love stories alive and spreading healing in the process.

You'll find...

- Hope as you see how Jesus shows up again and again.
- Encouragement as you realize you're not alone.
- Strength through prayer prompts that invite Jesus into your marriage in fresh ways.
- Journaling opportunities to record your own journey.
- 52 devotions that help you see how Jesus is working through your marriage to write a better story than you could ever write on your own.

Discover the hopeful story Jesus is telling through your marriage, beginning now.



Printed in China.

JesusCenteredLife.com

978-1-4707-4846-3 | \$14.99



51499

9 781470 748463

Religion/Christian Life/Love & Marriage



THIS IS A SAMPLE

The number of pages is limited.

Purchase the item for the complete version.

