



The Journey
Week of 02.21.10

Just Married—Sharing the Adventure

By Michael Maybee

“Where’s our guide?” someone yelled. Suddenly we all realized that in the middle of a stretch of class-4 rapids, the last big wave had tossed our guide into the frigid, wildly churning river. Now the one guy who really knew what he was doing was twenty feet behind us, swimming desperately to avoid smashing into the many rocks. “Back” I yelled! “Everybody paddle backward!” Working together, we paddled frantically against the current. We narrowly missed smashing into a huge boulder, with the guide between it and the raft. Finally, we got to him. Heaving on his life vest, we drug him back into the raft, to safety.

Now this might be a story from one of Heartland’s men’s adventure weekends. But it is not. The others involved in that adrenaline filled adventure consisted of one other man with three middle school girls, and **my wife**. She loves to tell that story now. She loves the way we shared the adventure.

In one of his earliest books, Wild at Heart, John Eldredge makes the point that “adventure is written into the heart of a man...Adventure *requires* something of us, puts us to the test.” Later in the book, in discussing the feminine heart, he says, “Every woman also wants an adventure *to share*... So many men make the mistake of thinking that the woman *is* the adventure. But that is where the relationship immediately goes downhill. A woman doesn’t want to be the adventure; she wants to be caught up into something greater than herself.”

If you are married and those statements apply to you, it is time to try a different approach. But this is not just a message for married couples. I think Eldredge is right. God gave both men and women these longings. And they long to share the adventure with others, be it a spouse, a significant other, family, or a small group of close friends. So married or single, read on, please.

Romans 8:28 tells us, “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his **purpose**.” (Emphasis added) God has called each of us to play a part in something far greater than ourselves, to play a part in his grand purpose. He let’s us choose. We can sit on the sidelines and watch, or we can take part in the adventure.

As Eldredge points out, adventure requires something of us. One thing required of us is to discern God’s will and to do it. Henry Blackaby and Claude King write, “‘What is God’s will for my life?’ is not the right question. The right question is, ‘What is God’s will?’ Once I know God’s will, then I can adjust my life to Him. In other words, what is it that God is purposing where I am? Once I know what God is doing, then I know what I need to do. The focus needs to be on God, not my life!” (Experiencing God—Knowing and Doing the Will of God)

Will you accept Rob Hole’s 5-day challenge? Will you look around at where you are in your journey, and figure out what God is purposing right now, right where you are, maybe right here at Heartland? Will you share the challenge and the adventure with someone: your spouse, your family, your friends?

*“The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters,
but a man of understanding draws them out.”*

~ Proverbs 20:5

(You are encouraged to use the SOAP – Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer Method for a guide. Click [here](#) for an example SOAP journal entry. Page numbers refer to "The Story of God" Bible available for free at the Welcome Center in our atrium.)

monday, 02.22.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Genesis 1:28](#) (pg. 1); [Genesis 2:15-17](#) (pg. 2); [Genesis 3:1-7](#) (pg. 2)

tuesday, 02.23.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Genesis 1:28](#) (pg. 1); [John10:1-21](#) (pg. 735); [1Peter 5:8-11](#) (pg. 835)

wednesday, 02.24.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Genesis 1:28](#) (pg. 1); [Ephesians 5](#), [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) (pg. 802)

thursday, 02.25.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Genesis 1:28](#) (pg. 1); [Matthew 6:9-13](#) (pg. 662)

friday, 02.26.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Genesis 1:28](#) (pg. 1); [2Timothy 3:10-17](#) (pg. 818); [Philippians 4:12-13](#) (pg. 805)

If you don't already receive weekly email notification about The Journey, click [here](#) to sign up.

Grow (resources to help you in your study)

- **Sunday's Sermon:** Click [here](#) for podcast, or here for [video](#)
- [**Desire: The Journey We Must Take to Find the Life God Offers**](#), by John Eldredge
- [**Love and War—Finding the Marriage You Dreamed Of**](#), by John & Stasi Eldredge
- [**The Five Love Languages**](#), by Gary Chapman
- [**Sacred Marriage**](#) by Gary Thomas.
- [**The Language Of Love And Respect - Cracking The Communication Code With Your Mate**](#), by Emerson Eggerichs

Go (action steps)

- The Psalm 92:2 Challenge: for the next month, keep a Bible by your nightstand and leave it open to Psalm 92:2. Each morning, dwell on his “loving kindness” - allowing it to create expectancy about how you’ll experience this throughout your day. At night, recount all the ways He’s been “faithful” to you.
- **GO**—Sign up to serve: email Lisa Zulke by clicking [here](#)
- **GROW**—Join a small group, a 1:1 spiritual mentorship, or find about the many other [ways to grow](#)
- **GIVE**—click [here](#) to make an online gift to Heartland and learn how you can set up recurring gifts

Small Group/ 1:1 Question Samplers:

1. What makes your marriage or close relationship most difficult? Can you unite against that difficult piece you have identified? If yes, how will you practically do that? If no, will you discuss this difficulty with a third party?
2. Reminisce about a time, when together, you were both living life to the full. Pray together for more of that.
3. How do you feel about praying together with your spouse or others? What does Jesus's instruction on prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) reveal to you?
4. What Shared Mission/Adventure (big or small) will you and your spouse take on next? If single, is there a shared mission/adventure (big or small) that you would like to take on with a family member, friend, etc.?
6. Do you “share meaning” when you communicate? If not what might need to change to accomplish that goal?
7. Memorize Philipians 4:8.