

PREPARING FOR A HONEYMOON

Introduction—The Bride of Christ

(2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7; 9; 22:17)

The Promise Stage

As binding as the marriage (Matthew 1:18-20)

Choice of bride by the Father (John 6:37, 44)

Gifts usually accompany engagement

Marriage present (Ephesians 1:13)

Dowry (Hebrews 1:14)

Bridegroom's gift to bride (Ephesians 4:7-8)

The Preparation Stage

Christ has gone to prepare a home for His bride
(John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Christ comes to prepare His bride (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

Imperishable (1 Corinthians 9:25)

Exultation (Philippians 4:1)

Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)

Life (James 1:12)

Glory (1 Peter 5:4)

The Presentation Stage

The Marriage Ceremony (Revelation 19:1-10)

Place—

Provision for the Bride—

The Presentation of the Bride with the Groom
(Revelation 19:11-14)

The Marriage Feast & Celebration

Who? (Revelation 19:9)—

When? (Luke 22:14-18)—

Other Attendees (Matthew 8:11)—

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

AUGUST 4-10

Follow-throughs

Monday

Matthew 22:1-14

a) What is the most unusual wedding reception you've ever attended? What made it stand out? b) What do you think Jesus means by the "invitation" to the wedding banquet? c) What does this parable suggest about the "kingdom"? d) When did you receive your invitation? Who does Jesus want you to invite to this banquet?

Tuesday

Ephesians 5:22-33

a) Which TV family most resembles your family when growing up? b) How would you summarize the role of the wife? How would you summarize the role of the husband? c) In what ways do you think a good marriage reflects Christ and His Church? d) When was the last time you submitted to Christ? What did He want you to do?

Wednesday

Matthew 22:23-33

a) In heaven, who or what on earth will you miss most? b) Why do you think "earthly" marriage will not continue in heaven? c) Who do you think you'll be married to in heaven (see Revelation 19:6-9)? d) What role do you think earthly marriage plays to prepare you for "marriage to the Lamb"?

Thursday

2 Corinthians 11:1-6

a) What do you think of "arranged marriages"? b) Where do you see the idea of an "arranged marriage" in this passage? c) What are some things in this passage that violate a "pure virgin" awaiting marriage to Christ? d) What is one way you may be compromising your purity to Christ as you prepare for your wedding to Him?

Warm-ups

Friday

Revelation 1:1-8

How is Jesus described? What names are applied to him? What will Jesus do in the future? Meditate on each of these words and phrases, and worship Jesus as reigning Lord.

Saturday

Revelation 1:9-20

How is Jesus described in these verses? What aspects of Jesus are similar to those described in verses 1-8? Which aspects are new? Ask the Lord to open your eyes to see more of the splendor of Jesus. There is an old chorus that says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace."

Sunday

Revelation 2:1-7

For what did Jesus commend the church in Ephesus? For what did he rebuke them? Where are you right now in your love relationship with Jesus?