

# **Vertical Connection — December 2025 Edition**

*A monthly encouragement from your One Flesh Marriage Ministry*

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## **Word for the Month: Scripture to Pray Over Your Marriage**

**“Love is patient, love is kind.**

**It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.**

**It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking,**

**it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.**

**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.**

**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”**

*— 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NIV)*

This Scripture is often read at weddings, and for good reason—it captures the essence of lasting covenant love. As we enter this season of joy, generosity, and reflection, let these verses become a **daily prayer** over your marriage. Ask God to grow these qualities in your home, your communication, and your hearts.

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## **Marriage Tip of the Month: Be Patient and Forgiving**

During the holiday season, life becomes busier, emotions run higher, and expectations grow. This month, choose to model Christlike patience and grace toward one another.

- **No one gets it right all the time** — extend the grace you hope to receive.
- **Let go of grudges quickly** — forgiveness protects your heart and your connection.
- Remember: *“Love keeps no record of wrongs.”*  
*— 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)*

A forgiving marriage is a resilient marriage.

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## ✨ Real Marriage, Real Growth

*"So very often our first conversation was the news of the day. We would place value on the other's point of view. Sharing interesting parts of the workday helped strengthen our connection. After all, it's GOD, the two of you, children, then the rest of the world.*

*Depending on the ages of your children, they may demand your time! But you must ensure that you share, give, offer, and sometimes even **protect** your connection time throughout their youth. 'Child – Teen – Young Adult'... then they are gone."*

— JE & ZE

Their reminder is powerful: **marital connection must stay intentional**, even in seasons when parenting feels overwhelming.

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## Resources to Explore

### 1. The Christian Parenting Podcast (*Hosted by Steph Thurling*)

Encourages parents to raise kids with love and intentionality. This podcast frees parents from perfectionism and embraces the beauty of being “perfectly imperfect.”

### 2. Focus on Parenting Podcast (*Hosted by Danny Huerta*)

Short, practical episodes (8–15 minutes) packed with biblical truths and parenting wisdom for everyday challenges.

### 3. Radiant Marriage Podcast (*Hosted by Adam & Jess Robichaud*)

Christ-centered conversations about communication, finances, intimacy, oneness, and navigating blended families.

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## Focus on the Family: “Keeping Christ at the Center of Christmas”

This season offers countless opportunities to point your family toward Jesus.

Try adding one or more of these simple traditions:

- **Nativity Reading** — Read Luke 2 as a family on Christmas Eve.

- **Family Prayer List** — Choose a family or friend to pray for each night this month.
- **Serving Together** — Deliver a meal, donate toys, or bless a neighbor unexpectedly.
- **Gratitude Ornaments** — Write blessings on ornaments and hang them on your tree.

Help your children experience Christmas as a celebration of Christ, not just gifts.

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## Bible Trivia for Kids! – Christmas Edition

Gather your kids and test their Christmas Bible knowledge:

**Q1:** Where was Jesus born?

*Bethlehem – Luke 2:4–7*

**Q2:** Who appeared to the shepherds in the fields?

*An angel – Luke 2:8–14*

**Q3:** What gifts did the wise men bring?

*Gold, frankincense, and myrrh – Matthew 2:11*

**Q4:** Who tried to harm baby Jesus?

*King Herod – Matthew 2:13*

**Q5:** What does the name “Immanuel” mean?

*“God with us” – Matthew 1:23*



## Kid Challenge of the Month

**Memorize Luke 2:11**

*“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.”*

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## A Prayer Over Your Marriage This Month

“Lord, thank You for the gift of love demonstrated through Christ. As we celebrate His birth, let us strengthen our marriages with patience, kindness, and deep forgiveness. May our homes reflect Your joy, peace, and hope in every season. Amen.”