

INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK

A
Couple
After God's
Own
Heart

JIM & ELIZABETH
GEORGE



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
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A COUPLE AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK

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Before You Begin



Welcome to this exciting, insightful Interactive Workbook. You are in for a treat! This workbook highlights and supplements the material in our book *A Couple After God's Own Heart*. And it focuses on *both of you* and your desire to be a couple after God's own heart. The scriptures and the exercises in this workbook, along with God's grace and blessings, will lead you toward your goal to build a better marriage—a marriage that lasts. Here's what you can look forward to:

- Each lesson features one couple in the Bible and practical applications you can start making right away. You'll also enjoy the take-away truths that will guide you day by day as you build your marriage.
- Each lesson is broken down into five days of material that is designed to make the best use of your time as a busy couple.
- Each lesson focuses equally on the husband and the wife, and provides a prayer to pray to seal into your hearts God's truths about marriage.

Day 1 is a thought-provoking story of a modern-day couple you might have things in common with. You'll have an opportunity to analyze, criticize, or learn from the couple's actions and decisions. Then you'll get a good look at the featured couple from the Bible to see what decisions they made and how those choices affected their marriage.

Days 2 and 3 provide a time for you *Together in God's Word* as you look at one of the couples in the Bible. Each day's lesson includes a section entitled *Growing as a Couple After God's Own Heart... One Day at a Time*. Key messages are drawn from the Bible text for you to reflect on and apply to your marriage.

Day 4 gives both husband and wife the opportunity to personalize Bible truths. The sections entitled *Lessons for Wives* and *Lessons for Husbands* are especially designed to help each of you with *Building a Marriage that Lasts*.

Day 5 is all about *Wrapping Up Your Week*, giving you something to think about, something to talk about, and something to do.

It is our prayer that as you make your way through this workbook, you will draw closer together, become more open in your communication, and grow a stronger marriage relationship that is all you want your marriage to be. And most of all, our prayer is that yours is a marriage after God's own heart.

Along the way, don't forget to...

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Adam and Eve

The Original Couple After God's Own Heart



Day 1: Let's Talk!

1. Read this story together and answer the questions addressed to you as a wife or husband.

It was time for Monday Night Football. Yes! Joe had taken over the family room and diligently prepared it for the big game. The guys at the office had been talking about this game for weeks, and had even set up an office pool for guessing which team would win and the amount of the point spread. Joe definitely had more than a casual interest in the game and the final score.

The game was well into the first quarter when Joe noticed, out the window, a neatly dressed couple on the sidewalk. It appeared they were headed toward his house. Joe thought to himself, *They must be with that religious group that's been going from house to house in our neighborhood this week. I sure hope they don't stop here—not now! Don't they know a lot of people are watching the game?*

Sure enough, the doorbell rang. Joe was in no mood to be interrupted. “Ellen!” Joe yelled into the kitchen. “Can you get the door? I’m kinda tied up here with this game right now.”

Joe heard Ellen’s sweet voice greet the couple at the door. He listened with one ear as the couple launched into their well-rehearsed speech. Then he heard his Ellie counter with something out of the Bible. Joe smiled and thought to himself, *This is good for Ellen. It's giving her a chance to share some of the things she's learning in that women's Bible study at church.*

Joe’s attention was immediately drawn back to the game as his favorite team scored a

touchdown, He leaped out of his La-Z-Boy recliner and threw his arms upward, signaling a touchdown. Sweet!

2. Think about the choices made by Joe and Ellen as you answer the following questions:

As a man and a husband, what are your thoughts about this story? How would you have handled this differently?

As a woman and a wife, what are your thoughts about this story? How would you have handled this differently?

3. In your book *A Couple After God's Own Heart*, read the opening story and answer these questions:

What was Adam doing in the garden—and what was he not doing?

What was Eve doing in the garden—and what was she not doing?

Think about Joe and Ellen in their scenario. What similarities do you see in their situation and in Adam and Eve's story?

Growing as a Couple After God's Own Heart... One Day at a Time

Just for today, what will you do as a husband to stay in touch with your wife?

Just for today, what will you do as a wife to stay in touch with your husband?

A Prayer to Pray

Lord, I've obviously got a few things to think about. Help me to follow through on my desire to do a better job of keeping in touch with my partner in marriage today.

Day 2: Together in God's Word

With your Bible in hand, begin working through the "What's Going On?" section in your book. Look up each Bible passage. Then read or review the comments and explanations.

1. *The Command:* Read Genesis 2:16-17 in your Bible. What did God specifically say Adam could do, and should not do?

What consequence did God tell Adam would occur if His instructions were not obeyed?

2. *The Creation:* Read Genesis 2:18-22. What observation did God make regarding the man in verse 18, and what was His perfect solution?

Briefly describe the creation of Adam's helper, Eve.

According to Genesis 2:24, what was God's perfect plan for a husband and wife?

3. *The Creature:* Read Genesis 3:1. Describe the serpent.

According to Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:3, what was the serpent's goal...and accomplishment?

What information does John add about the serpent in Revelation 12:9?

4. *The Confrontation:* Read Genesis 3:1 again. Who did the serpent choose to speak to, and what was his question?

Growing as a Couple After God's Own Heart... One Day at a Time

Today's lesson includes four key messages to you about:

Knowing God's instructions and commands—They are all clearly stated in His Word, the Bible.

Knowing your role and purpose as a husband and as a wife—God created the man, Adam, to lead and the woman, Eve, to be his helper.

Knowing your enemy—The serpent is clever, crafty, and deceitful.

Knowing your enemy's tactics—His method is always the same; his goal is to cause you to doubt God's character and God's Word.

What difference does reading this information make in your life today...

...as a husband?

...as a wife?

...as a couple?

A Prayer to Pray

Dear God, You created me in Your image and for Your purpose. Help me to understand and fulfill my role, remembering to seek Your help in protecting me against the enemy of my soul.

Day 3: Together in God's Word

With your Bible in hand, continue working through the "What's Going On?" section in your book. Look up each Bible passage. Then read or review the comments and explanations.

5. *The Conspiracy*: Read Genesis 3:4-5. What lie did the serpent boldly present to Eve?

6. *The Confusion*: Read Genesis 3:2-3.

What did Eve say to the serpent in verse 2?

What did Eve say to the serpent in verse 3?

What did God say to Adam in Genesis 2:17?

The MacArthur Study Bible surmises Eve's confusion "actually led her and Adam to spiritual death (separation from God)."¹

7. *The Consequences:* Read Genesis 3:1-19. What led Eve to go ahead and eat the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

She saw—

She desired—

She took—

She gave—

According to verse 7, what was the instant result?

After God confronted Adam and Eve, what question did He ask them in verse 11b?

What followed was a blaming session. Who did Adam blame for his sin, and what was the consequence of his sin (verses 12,17-19)?

Who did Eve blame for her sin, and what was the consequence of her sin (verses 13,16)?

What were the consequences of the serpent's lies and deception (verses 14-15)?

What was another consequence Adam and Eve faced for failing to listen to God's word and obey it (verses 23-24)?

The Law of E.F. Hutton: Eve Speaks

Remember the old TV commercial? "When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen." Regardless of their titles, real leaders influence others. The story of Eve demonstrates the impact of negative influence. Although God commissioned Adam as her spiritual leader, Eve usurped the role of influencer. Adam followed his wife rather than God, and together they led humankind into sin.²

Putting It All Together

The perfection of God's creation was disrupted when Satan tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God and usurped His rule over their lives. When they gave in to this temptation—referred to as "the fall"—they damaged their relationship with God and were driven from the garden, away from the original blessing God intended for them. However, even in the midst of this calamity, God had already set in motion His long-term plan to redeem humanity and bring man back into an intimate relationship with Him.³

Growing as a Couple After God's Own Heart... One Day at a Time

When the Bible describes the fall and the fallout of the fall, God is sending some strong and sobering messages to husbands and wives. As you look back over this lesson and the “Putting It All Together” summary above, what is God speaking to your heart today...

...as a husband?

...as a wife?

A Prayer to Pray

God of all mercy, I praise You for Your compassion and grace in redeeming sinners, for making a way through Your Son to bring someone like me into an intimate relationship with You.

Day 4: Building a Marriage that Lasts

Lessons for Wives from Eve

In a few sentences, jot down what you can take away from each of the following lessons from your study of Eve:

1. Remember your purpose—

2. Always ask—

3. Know your enemy—

4. Forgive your spouse—

5. Go on—

From your study of Adam and Eve, “The Original Couple After God’s Own Heart,” what is the Number One message God is sending to your heart that will help you as a wife to build a better marriage? Write it here, and don’t forget to share it with your husband.

A Prayer for Your Husband

Dear Lord, I’m so grateful to You for my marriage and for the wonderful husband You brought to me. Please give him energy and stamina as he works hard to provide for me and our family. Most of all, I ask that You continue to give him a love and hunger for Your Word as he leads our family in Your ways.

Lessons for Husbands from Adam

In a few words, jot down what you can take away from each of the following lessons from your study of Adam:

1. Remember your purpose—

2. Be available—

3. Be protective—

4. Be an encourager—

From your study of Adam and Eve, “The Original Couple After God’s Own Heart,” what is the Number One message God is sending to your heart that will help you as a husband to build a better marriage? Write it here, and don’t forget to share it with your wife.

A Prayer for Your Wife

Dear Lord, thank You for giving me the wife You knew would be right for me. You knew what I would need to live a productive and useful life. Help me to lead her and be more vigilant in protecting her from the enemy. Keep her spiritually strong so she can fulfill Your will and be abundantly blessed.

Day 5: Wrapping Up Your Week

Something to Think About...

Congratulations on a great beginning to your study of ten couples in the Bible and their messages to you as a husband, wife, and couple. Think about what it means to “do all God’s will” in your marriage, and what changes you will make to do your part in your goal to be a couple after God’s own heart.

Something to Talk About...

Adam and Eve really blew it! There is much to learn from their failures—lessons that can help you in your marriage. Talk about where they went wrong and how the two of you can keep from repeating their mistakes...

...as a husband

...as a wife

...as a couple

Something to Do...

On separate 3" x 5" cards, write out the area in which each of you want to work on your marriage.

- Swap cards for a week.
- Carry your spouse's card with you all week and pray daily over the contents of the card.
- In a week, get an update.