

Outrageously Committed to My Marriage

52 DEVOTIONS

JESUS-CENTERED DEVOTIONS (J.)





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#### JESUS-CENTERED DEVOTIONS

#### We: Outrageously Committed to My Marriage

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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 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.



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