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*Workshops and Resources to help couples and families
foster their deepest beliefs*



Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

JULY - 2020



I offer you these tidbits of wisdom as prayer prompts to remind you (and your constituents) of the sacredness of marriage vows and the value of every child. The commitment to love a spouse forever, and the generous gift of life parents offer a child are indeed spiritual undertakings and cannot be done alone. May the God of Love be with you and your work.

***FOR MORE** extended marriage and parenting articles, plus archived Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers, go to: www.SusanVogt.net

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Dear Theodore,
Below are your Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers for July 2020.

BONUS: During these days/months of physical distancing most families are spending more time at home together. That is good; BUT it also means that we can get on each other's nerves. Offer [FORGIVE & FORGET](#), a family enrichment experience for your families to do at home.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS*

893. July 6: Although the coronavirus has been hard on everybody, it is especially difficult for those who live alone. Cherish the companionship you share. Who do you know who doesn't have someone at home to talk with? Given them a call.

894. July 13: "All Creation is groaning in labor pains...we also groan within ourselves as we wait for...the redemption of our bodies." (Romans 8: 18-22-23) As we humans continue to groan about Covid-19, we wait. We wait for a vaccine, for return to normal, or even an improvement on the normalcy of the past. We groan, and we pray that our labor pains may bring to birth a better world.

895. July 20: An elderly man had just lost his wife, when a 4-year-old neighbor child saw him crying. The little boy went to the man's yard, climbed on his lap, and just sat there. When the boy's mother asked him what he'd said to the neighbor, the boy answered, "Nothing, I just helped him cry." When was the last time one of you cried? (Leo Buscaglia)

896. July 27: Solomon asked the Lord for an "understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:9) not a long life or riches. Marriage comes with plenty of occasions to complain and be irritated. Think of one criticism you have of your beloved. Imagine how an understanding heart would handle that criticism.

**Marriage Moments go out to individuals on Mondays. For Sunday bulletins use the Sunday immediately before the above date.*

***EDUCATORS,
LEADERS, &**

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PARENTING POINTERS*

892. July 3: "Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones." (Mt. 11:25) Usually the parent is the teacher of the child. But today ponder what you can learn from your child. (playfulness, trust, technology...)

893. July 10: Sometimes parents' words fall on children as if they were deaf and blind. "Clean up your room." "Don't fight with your sister." "I need help with dinner." - "Huh?" This is a challenge to a parent's creativity in phrasing the ask or imposing a natural consequence for non-compliance.

894. July 17: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed." (Mt. 13: 31) That's a pretty strange statement on face value. No wonder the disciples had trouble understanding it. Your kids probably have a notion of what heaven is like. Ask them to describe heaven in their own words - not the bible's.

895. July 24: The 4th Sunday in July is Parents Day. No parent is perfect but I bet you keep trying to be a good parent. Ask your child what they think is the hardest part of being a parent? Maybe they could draw a cartoon showing you in typical parent mode.

896. July 31: "Treat your company like family and your family like company," (Tom Fogle)

** Parenting Pointers go out to individuals on Fridays. For Sunday bulletins, use the closest Friday.*

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