

FIVE-DAY
devotional

Praying
God's Word
for Your
Husband

Kathi Lipp



 Revell

a division of Baker Publishing Group
www.RevellBooks.com



if only....

"If only he would listen to me..." Oh, that sentence has gotten me into so much trouble.

How many times have I thought that? If only my husband would take my advice, he would have a better job, be a better father, be healthier... (fill in the blank).

When I'm trying to control my husband, what I'm really doing is trying to withhold him from God.

I want to be the kind of wife who spends twice as many words praying to God on my husband's behalf as I do offering advice to my man. I know that what my husband thinks is nagging will drive a wedge between us, but when I pray for him, it draws us closer together.

SCRIPTURE

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

— James 5:16

PRAYER FOR TODAY

God, let me live openhandedly when it comes to my husband. Help me realize that my prayers on his behalf are more effective than any words I could speak to him. Let him always feel safe sharing his needs with me, knowing I will take them only to you.





stuck....

Sometimes my husband gets stuck.

Whether it's in an old addiction that is trying to get ahold of him, a way of thinking that leaves him believing he can't change anything in his life, a job he hates, or in a relationship that he knows isn't good for him, sometimes my husband gets stuck.

I encourage him and love on him, but there are just some days where he feels like he can't make the changes he wants, or needs to make.

So I pray that he would start believing God for the power to change. That he would abandon his old ways of thinking, ("I'll never." "I can't.") and start thinking in the way that God designed him to think; That all things are possible for those who believe him.

SCRIPTURE

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

— Romans 12:2

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Father, I pray that my husband would not look for approval in the world, but only from you. Let his mind dwell on the matters that are important to you. God, I pray that he would know your will and find delight in living for, and loving, you.





a house of peace....

Would I want to come home to my house? It's an honest question. Depending on the day, yes. And no.

There are days when I've worked hard at making my home a soft place to land. I've spent a little time cleaning up messes, getting dinner on the table, and put some music on the iPod that helps me connect with God.

Then there are other days.

Usually the other days have involved a little too much TV and a lot too much Facebook. I end up scrambling to pray up a miracle for dinner, and am resentful that all of this is left to me to do.

When I spend time in God's word, I go into my day being grateful for the home, husband, job and family God has given me, instead of being resentful for the interruptions that they impose on my day. How long did I hope for the husband and kids I now have? How many others would love to have the home I now have, messy and mortgage payments included?

I want to walk through my day — and my home — with an abundance of gratitude. So much so, that when my husband, or anyone else — comes through the threshold, they can't help but get that thankfulness splashed on them.

SCRIPTURE

The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

— Proverbs 14:1

PRAYER FOR TODAY

God, let me be the wise woman who builds up her home and all who are in it. God, don't let me get years down the road and see that I've been the one tearing it down. Let it be a safe haven for all who enter, especially for my husband.





enough....

There is more month than there is paycheck. I can't keep up with the work — both inside the house and outside of it. My parents need me, my kids need me, and my husband needs me.

Throughout the day, I am reminded that there is never enough. Enough money, enough time, enough me to go around. And so often, it's easy to put that burden on my husband — He doesn't make enough money. He isn't helping out enough with the house. He isn't helping out enough with the family. Whether it's silently, or in my attitude.

But when I'm lacking, it's not up to my husband to meet my need. It's totally up to God.

SCRIPTURE

And my God will meet all your needs according to the glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

— *Philippians 4:19*

PRAYER FOR TODAY

God, I pray that I would always be reminded to put my burden where it belongs — squarely at your feet.

You already know what I need for each day — you see around every corner.

I pray that I would come to my husband as a partner and helpmate in everything.





encourage....

It had been a no-good, horrible day. My kids were not behaving how I raised them (I promise you, they were raised better than they were acting,) someone else got picked for the job I wanted, and the cat decided to use the only decent piece of furniture in our home as his new scratching post.

On days like this, I call up my mom and whine to her. Then I call up my friend Cheri, who promises to pray for me, and, for a small fee, make the cat disappear. And then I feel better.

I have about a half dozen people I could call at a moment's notice and I know they would be praying for me. By the end of the conversation, I would have some hope, and a good laugh.

But at the end of a bad day, who does my husband have?

If there is going to be any encouragement in my husband's life, it is a safe bet that it needs to come from me. My husband doesn't have a bunch of people in his life that will pray over the destructive cat. If he needs prayer, if he needs encouragement, then he needs me.

SCRIPTURE

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

PRAYER FOR TODAY

God, I pray that I would always be ready to pray and encourage my man. Give me your eyes to see his needs. Let me be the one to always build him up, with your strength.

