

TwoIgnite

Part Three – Live the Adventure
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We're talking about marriage and we're talking about Jesus, but we're not really presenting the gospel and doing some kind of alter call or anything. Still, in the last two weeks, twelve people have trusted Christ as their savior in our services for the first time. Isn't that fantastic as a reminder of what God is doing? I'm hearing all these stories from all these couples. I have had couples come up to me and just say listen, our marriage was a wreck and we were just so struggling. We came to this thing and we are beginning to dream big again of what could be.

There was one particular couple – a bomb dropped in their marriage and they were about ready to just get divorced that day. That day, the mailer came to their home. They said “okay, let's give this a shot” and they showed up. They pulled me aside afterward and told me their story. They said they believe that God has more for them and they are going to start dreaming big for their marriage again.

I just see it over and over again. In fact, couples come up to me and say “You know our marriage is pretty good and we weren't sure what this ministry was going to do for us, but all of the sudden we are beginning to see that God has even more for us and we're beginning to take hold of that.” I have had single people come up to me, people who are single again, and say they were so hurt by a previous marriage and thought that either they would never get married again or would have to settle for something like they had before. Now they are beginning to dream big that God actually has something different and something better in store for them. It's just been beautiful.

Even Dr. Gary Smalley, who is going to be here next weekend... He's been premiere leader in marriage ministries since Adam, just like forever. He's written a zillion books and has been on Oprah and Larry King. Even he is so excited about this ministry. We can't get him to stop talking about it. Wherever he goes, he just keeps talking about it. He sent an email to me on Friday that he wanted me to read to you. It's just a brief sentence here. Gary Smalley writes this: *Please tell the people of Mission that I've been working on my message of TwoPlay for over two weeks and I've even become fired up about adding more play, fun and laughter to my life.* That's Dr. Gary Smalley. How cool is that? The guy is 69; he's been married for like 65 of those years. You could do that back in the day. But still, after being married for as long... They still know God has more for them and they are excited about what this ministry is doing.

If you weren't here for the last couple of weeks, let me just kind of give you a recap of where we've been on this thing. Week number one, Ted Cunningham was here and his message, in a sentence, was this: you don't have to choose between a life or a wife or a life or a husband. God wants you to actually enjoy life with your spouse.

Week number two, we talked about God's dream for marriage. We just saw that God has this huge, beautiful dream for marriage, to have this one flesh love, great, united love for a lifetime. In order to stop the drifting apart of couples by dreaming separately, we want them to stop dreaming separately and start dreaming together of what could be for their marriage.

This is week three; it's called *Live the Adventure*. *Live the Adventure* is about now that we've kind of seen God's beautiful design for marriage and we've begin to dream about what could be for our marriages, if we are going to actually experience that reality, we're going to have to get up off the sofa and begin to live differently. We are actually going to have to take some risks, take some effort, and make some changes in order to live the adventure. So TwoIgnite is not about putting you in some other classroom, if we had such thing around here, and giving you more curriculums and workbooks and videos to go through. No, no, no, let's just get up and start taking some risks together.

Let's reject substandard marriages and know that's lame and, together, let's start moving forward as husband and wife and start making some new effort to arrive in some new places in our marriage and begin to live the adventure. So this is what TwoIgnite is. The promise is that when we do that, there is actually a better place for us, there's actually a better life, there's actually a better marriage. If you're single, there's a better life out there for you as you begin to follow God and live this adventure. If you are a married couple, you just need to understand there is a better place for you that God has designed for you. It is this beautiful marriage that God wants to build in enjoyment and intrigue and excitement and adventure. To get to that place, it's going to take risk, it's going to take effort, and it's going to take change.

No doubt about it, there is an easier path to take. You can just say what we have as husband and wife is not much, but at least it's familiar, at least it seems kind of easy, so let's just kind of continue to do what we're doing. Going down that path just sounds too hard so let's just continue to do what we are doing. We've kind of figured this thing out. You have your space and I have my space and it's nothing great, but we've kind of got this thing together.

TwoIgnite is about saying no, no, no, that's lame. We are going to absolutely reject mediocre, status quo marriage and say God has a better place for us. He has a better plan for our marriage and we are going to fight for it. We are actually going to stand up as a people and we are going to start living the adventure and grab hold of the marriage that God wants us to have. Amen? That's where we're heading with this thing.

I want to tell you a Bible story. By the way, you definitely need a Bible for this and we love giving them out. So if you don't have one, just put your hand up and there are some people that will get you that Bible. Open it up to Numbers 13. If you didn't know Numbers was in the Bible, it is. It's actually the fourth book: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers. So it's the fourth book in your Bible, some of the early pages, some of the clean pages in your Bible, right? Numbers 13. This is a biblical story that I want to share with you because it talks about why people would often times choose the path of least resistance

instead of the path of adventure that God leads them into. It talks about why they might choose the path of least resistance and completely lose sight of the very beautiful place that God wants to bring them.

It's a historical account that God includes in scripture as a warning for us against settling for status quo, against choosing to not live the adventure. Let me give you the context as you continue to find Numbers 13. The Israelites had been living in Egyptian captivity for hundreds of years. They were a slave population to the Egyptian nation. God is now going to deliver them out of slavery. He raises up Moses as their leader and he miraculously delivers them out of Egyptian captivity. You remember the story; the plaques and everything. God delivers them out of Egypt.

As the Egyptian army is pressing down on them, God miraculously delivers them again. He separates the ocean, the Israelites pass through as the Egyptian army, one of the most powerful armies on the planet at that time, comes through the ocean. God then collapses the ocean in on them and wipes out their army. The Israelites win without any army at all because the Lord was fighting for them. Then God brings them up to Mt Sinai and he gives them these commandments. He points them to a Promised Land. He says not only am I delivering you out of Egyptian captivity, but I'm delivering you into a better place. I'm delivering you into a rich, abundant land, a Promised Land. So as they were leaving and wondering through this wilderness, they were heading to a better place.

Here in Number 13, they were actually on the doorstep of the Promised Land. They were in a place called the Desert of Paran, specifically a place called Kadesh. There they were just right on the doorstep of the Promised Land. They had been traveling through that wilderness, being guided by the Lord for a year and they were right on the edge of entering into this Promised Land and that's where we pick it up in Numbers 13.

The Lord said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. Canaan is this Promised Land that God said he would have for them. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders." Now there were twelve tribes of Israel so they were to choose one person from each one of those tribes, twelve men that were going to go explore the Promised Land, to go check it out.

Verse 17 - When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

That season in Israel would have been September or maybe early October so immediately after a very long, hot summer. So you kind of get the picture. The Nation of Israel is on the edge of this Promised Land, but they have been living in this desert and they just got through this completely hot summer with no air conditioning, living in tents. They are on the edge of this Promised Land and they send these twelve explorers to go in.

God gives them specific directions how he wants them to explore the land. He doesn't say just send a couple of people and go up to the highest point you can find and look over and go oh yea, there it is. He says here's what I want you to do.

Now the Desert of Paran was the northern tip entry of the Land of Canaan. He says I want you to go all the way down to the southern tip, the Negev, and then I want you to work your way up all the way through the hill country, back up to the Desert of Paran, the northern tip. I want you to check out the land from bottom to top. It would have been a 500 miles journey, 250 miles each way. It would take them 40 days to complete the journey.

The point is God wanted them to take a look at what he had promised. He wanted them to see it; he wanted them to touch it; he wanted them to evaluate it; he wanted them to see that where he was bringing them was a really good place. In other words, everything he promised it would be; that it was rich, abundant and it was worth fighting for. He wanted them to see that. He wanted them to understand something else. He wanted them to understand that they would have to fight for it. The land wasn't vacant; there were actually people living in it. God says I want you to go assess the enemy. See how many there are. Are they big or small? How many cities do they have? Are they many or few? Are the cities walled or unwalled?

God knew all the answers to those questions, but he wanted them to see that and he wanted them to understand that in order to lay hold of, in order for them to actually seize this Promised Land and arrive in the rich, abundant place that God had for them, it was going to take risk. It was going to take faith; it was going to take effort and change and pain and hurt to take that land, but it would be worth it because the payoff was great. So the explorers went down to the Negev and they worked their way up to the north. They began to explore all the land and brought some of the fruit of it.

Let's pick it back up in Number 13: 21 - ***So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath.*** If you have no idea what I just said, they just explored the land, okay? Verse 23 - ***When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes.*** Now check out how big this cluster of grapes is. ***Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs.***

So they go in and start exploring the land and they are supposed to take some of the fruit of the land to show people how abundant and how rich it is. They are going through the Promised Land and they see just how abundant it is and they go we've got to bring some of this back. So they cut off a cluster of grapes. Now we went to the grocery store and tried to find the largest, self-sustaining cluster of grapes that we could find. That's the biggest we found at Safeway and I can totally carry it by myself, no problem. I could carry this all day, no problem.

But the cluster of grapes that they had was so big it took two of them to carry it on a pole. As a matter of fact, to this day, the symbol for Israel's Department of Tourism is this: two

men carrying that cluster of grapes on a pole. Even still to this day, it's a remembrance of this account. So these two men are carrying these grapes on this pole. Not only the huge cluster of grapes, but they take this other fruit of the land. Pomegranates, my personal favorite, and Fig Newton's and they get it all. They get all of this stuff and they bring it back to the people.

So now they are heading all the way north and they arrive at the northern tip. The Israelites are assembled there at the Desert of Paran, specifically in a place called Kadesh. There at Kadesh, the Israelites wait. They are just ready to step into that Promised Land, but they are waiting to get the report from the explorers. So at Kadesh, they get the report, the explorers come back.

Let's pick it up at Verse 26 - ***They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. We'll get to the rest of the report in just a minute, but notice this: there in Kadesh, the Israelites, for the first time, can actually taste the fruit of the Promised Land. None of them, other than the twelve explorers had ever stepped foot into the Promised Land. The entire nation had been living, for a year, in the wilderness, desert living, nomadic people, eating nothing but manna for a year. I'm sure it was like okay for the first week, but come on. Anything for a year is bad.***

For the first time in a year, they get to bite into a juicy grape. They get to break open a pomegranate and take those delicious seeds out and eat them. They get to peel open that package of the first Fig Newton's... I think if it was Oreo's, it would have been so much better. If it was Double Stuff, they would have stormed the Promised Land, but they didn't, it was Fig Newton's. But still, Fig Newton's after a year of manna, must have tasted like filet mignon right? So there at Kadesh, they began to taste the fruit of the land and everybody was thinking this is what God promised, this is so, so good. But... here's the rest of the report.

Verse 28 - ***But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.***" The point is this: there are a lot of people living there, a lot of big, powerful people.

Verse 30 - ***Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." Of the twelve explorers, there are only two people that really had the courage to say we can defeat them and that was Joshua and Caleb. But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it.***

All of the sudden the story begins to get embellished. ***All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there...*** Now the Israelites knew exactly what that meant. The Nephilim was sort of this mysterious... I can't even explain this Bible passage, but it's described as the sons of men cohabitating with the daughters of women and the generation that they gave birth to... it's just this mysterious thing. But it's like saying we saw monsters in the land. And the story gets bigger and bigger. They didn't mention the Nephilim at first, but now that the people are considering going in, they start embellishing the story.

We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes... After Ted's message that first week, that whole passage takes on new meaning for me. ***We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.***"

At Kadesh, there is a turning point for the people of Israel. Kadesh was an absolute turning point because here is the Nation of Israel and they have this opportunity of a lifetime set before them. They have these two choices. They can look at the Promised Land and see it's fruit and understand that God had blessed them, understand what God had promised them was indeed true. They could look back on how God had delivered them and see how miraculous it was and say God has brought them here for a reason; he is going to bring them into that land. They could be willing to take the risk, willing to have faith and go ahead and make the effort and live the adventure and take that land.

They could do that... or they could say that's a really scary report and taking that land sounds really hard and really risky. Well what we have isn't great, but at least it's safe. We could choose sand; we could choose to live in the desert. We could choose to actually walk away from the Promised Land and choose to take the safer option, what sounds safer, and just choose sand instead of Promised Land. Of the twelve explorers that went in, ten of them said you should choose sand. Only Joshua and Caleb said no you shouldn't; you should trust God and go into the Promised Land.

Look at Chapter 14: 6 - ***Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.***

Only Joshua and Caleb said yes come on Israelites, let's take this land that God has promised; let's live the adventure he called us to; let's grab hold of it. Only two; the other ten said don't do it; choose the easier option. Choose the thing that sound safe or sounds easier and they influenced an entire nation.

Chapter 14: 1 - ***That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"*** Do you remember what they were in Egypt? They were slaves. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to

Egypt? *And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."*

They began to grumble and complain. At Kadesh, the Israelites completely wimped out. At Kadesh, on the doorstep of achieving everything that God had brought them to, of reaching that thing, of grabbing hold of that dream had for them, the Israelites completely wimped out. They just started complaining and grumbling. We can't do it. It's too hard. Can't we just go home? Are we there yet? I have to go to the bathroom. Saul punched me. Esther pulled my hair. And they started blaming God.

Chapter 14: 3 – Why would the Lord do this to us? Why would the Lord cause us to just... our kids taken as plunder and we fall by the sword... as if they were believing that God, in his majestic wisdom and his majestic power and all his majesty, decided to take this Israelite population, rescue them out of Egyptian captivity, miraculously do these plaques, miraculously bring them out as an entire nation and as the Egyptian army pressed down on them, miraculously separate the ocean for them and miraculously destroy the Egyptian arm and to give them his commands on Mt. Sinai because his plan was for them to get to the edge of the promised land and then kill them all. Really!?! That's just stupid plan. That's what we believe.

So they are at Kadesh with the opportunity of a lifetime before them. The Israelite people chose, instead of grabbing hold of the promise that God had for them, instead of living the adventure that God had for them, they chose instead to turn back to the desert. They chose sand over Promised Land and they got exactly what they asked for. For the rest of their lives, everyone 20 years and older in the Nation of Israel lived out pathetic, puny, mediocre lives in wilderness wandering until every one of them died in the wilderness, one step away of grabbing hold of the promised land, but never entering in because they refused to live the adventure.

Chapter 14: 28 – This is the Lord speaking to Israel. *So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall--every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.* Only those two are going to get to go in because only those two had the courage to take risks and live the adventure.

Chapter 14: 31 – *As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. But you--your bodies will fall in this desert. Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the desert. For forty years--one year for each of the forty days you explored the land--you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.'*

Because at Kadesh they refused to live the adventure and chose sand over Promised Land, for forty more years, an entire generation of Israelites lived mundane, puny, pathetic lives,

so much smaller than what God had planned for them. And their children suffered because of their decisions. A generation suffered and then the generation below them suffered. It wasn't until that entire generation died in the wilderness that God said okay now I'm going to bring you into that Promised Land.

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking wow that's the passage you're preaching on for a marriage ministry? Can't we bring the funny guy from Branson back and do that whole... But here's the thing... it begs the question when we look at this story. God includes this story of enormous failure of Israel. Actually if you continue to read on, the scriptures refer back to it and there are Psalms, like Psalm 95 is actually a whole psalm about this failure. God records this failure multiple times in scripture as a lesson for us because it begs the question when given the choice, why would anybody ever choose sand over Promised Land? Well, for the same reason we do, right? Don't we do it all the time? God calls us to this big, fantastic, beautiful thing and we go yea, but that's a little scary, I think I'm going to just do this thing over here. You don't need to be married to apply this in your life. Every one of us can relate to this.

But specifically, for you married people, isn't it true that God is calling us to this big beautiful dream for marriage, but a lot of us are just settling for something so much smaller: sand over Promised Land. Here's why the Israelites chose, at Kadesh, not to live the adventure. Choosing sand was the less risky option. It was just safer, right? Living in the desert wasn't anything to right home about but at least they didn't have a lot to lose. As soon as they decided to step into this adventure and cross over from that Desert of Paran, into the Promised Land... as soon as they did that, now they were going to have to do battle with the people in the land. When you go to battle, you lose things and people. And it wasn't just one battle; it would be multiple battles because there were lots of people in the land. They were afraid that God wasn't going to give them the victory. Even though he had provided so much for them and called them to this thing, they were afraid that God wouldn't give them that victory and that their children and their women would be taken as plunder. And while we don't have much here in the desert, at least... here's the word: safe. So they just chose the safe option.

Another reason they chose it was that it sounded easier. It was just more familiar. Life in the desert wasn't great, but at least you knew what to expect. You woke up in the morning and there was your manna. Then you ate it and kind of went about your day. You didn't have any land really and it was easy. There was nobody fighting you over desert real estate. Nobody wants it right? Except here. But there, nobody wanted it so it was easy. You just kind of went about your day and it wasn't much, but at least it was familiar and it didn't take a tremendous amount of effort.

But as soon as we choose this other option of actually living the adventure and trying to take hold of this thing that God has called us to... as soon as we do that, then everything begins to change and it's not familiar anymore and it's going to take effort. Who knows what's going to happen when we step into that land. All of the sudden the manna is going to stop and we'll have to find our own food. Then we'll have to do some battling. We are going tear down some cities, and then we'll have to rebuild those cities, and who knows

what's going to happen in that whole process. It just sounds like a lot of work and a lot of effort and really it just sounds a lot easier to just kind of keep doing what we've been doing. It's not great, but over this last year, we've kind of grown accustomed to desert living. So they chose the easier, more familiar option there at Kadesh; right on the edge of greatness, right on the edge of the Promised Land, right on the edge of where God wanted to bring them. An entire generation of Israelites forfeited their future to the less risky, easier, more familiar option.

Here's the thing... I've been thinking about it this week. TwoIgnite, this marriage ministry that we are doing, is really a Kadesh moment for your marriage. Most of us kind of go through our marriages and we kind of stop working at it. You kind of stop going hey where is our marriage heading and let's kind of set a marker of where we want to be a year from now. Let's work towards that. We just kind of forget about those things and we kind of slip into these routines. We hope that TwoIgnite becomes a Kadesh moment for you where you go hey, which direction is our marriage heading? You begin to intentionally set a course for your marriage.

We've been, for the first two weeks of the series, essentially exploring the land. We've been exploring the dream that God has for marriage and going wow, he wants to bring us into a really good place. Our God, who invented marriage, has this beautiful dream for it. He wants us to have a one flesh love for a lifetime. He wants us to be intensely connected with our spouse. He wants us not to just endure, but to enjoy it. Enjoy life with your spouse. He wants you to be sexually satisfied and actually be ravished for one another for a lifetime and just have this fantastic relationship.

We look at him and go God, you have a beautiful dream for marriage, a beautiful place and we've explored the land and we've said that's what we want. To get there though, it's going to take some work. It's an effort. There are some risks. Some things are going to have to change. There is an easier option. You can take a look at your marriage and say yea I know that God wants that for other people's marriage and maybe even for our marriage, but what we have is not so great, but at least it's familiar; at least it sounds easier and we know what to expect. I come home and I sit down on the sofa and I turn on the television and you have your space and I have my space and we kind of leave each other alone and we figure it out. It's nothing great, but at least it's pretty easy. If we rock the boat and begin to try to change things, who knows what's going to happen. That begins to sound a little bit risky and maybe we should just choose this other path and it will just lead to a mundane, status quo marriage.

TwoIgnite is about saying that is a lame decision. That is pathetic. None of us got into marriage for that. God has a beautiful dream for your marriage and it's worth fighting for. It's worth saying God, I want that. Your picture of marriage is beautiful and I'm going to take the risk, I'm going to make the effort, I'm going to make the change, because that is worth fighting for. That's where we are heading with TwoIgnite. Do you want to go there? Other than these people right here, do you all want to go there? It's a good place. God wants to bring you into a beautiful, beautiful place.

I want to get really specific for a few moments about what we are talking about because I think some of you might hear that and go okay, good speaker... put the knife in the teeth and swing down on the rope, but where am I heading on this thing? Let me get really specific about where we're going to be heading this year. For the next year, the first weekend of each month... This first one is a little bit different because the first weekend of September is Labor Day so we're going to move it up one week. Gary Smalley will be here next week and actually kick this thing off.

We are going to take one particular area of marriage. We have twelve Igniters and we are going to take one per month, the first weekend of each month, and talk about this particular area of marriage. We're going to challenge you get up off the sofa and begin to live differently and take some risks and make some effort to actually enter into a better place in your marriage in that particular area. Then, for that month, we are going to have 60 or 70 adventures for you to actually go on. We're not going to put you in a classroom; we're not going to box you up in some room. We are going to say go on an adventure. We have all these adventures planned and they are all kinds of things. They are everything from skydiving to dinner with friends. But all these adventures are crazy. If you are worried about being physically able, there is going to be one for you. If you are worried about money, that's okay, there is going to be one for you. But we have all these adventures that you are going to go on that are going to reinforce that igniter of that month.

It's going to challenge you to get moving and begin to do something different because God wants to bring us to a better place. For instance, next weekend, when Dr. Gary Smalley is here, he's going to do the first Igniter called TwoPlay. A couple of months after that, Ted Cunningham will be back and he's going to do TwoLaugh. In those two months, we are going to be inviting you to actually embrace a different lifestyle that's not as familiar for a lot of people. For a lot of people, the familiar lifestyle is I come home and I sit down and I turn on the television and I have my space and you have your space and we've slipped into this routine. That is going to lead to a mundane marriage.

Let's get up off the sofa and let's start creatively playing together again like we did when we were dating. It's going to take a little bit of effort, but I'm telling you the payoff is awesome. I can just tell you from experience.

In one of the months, we are going to talk about TwoFuel; we're going to talk about finances and say we should make some changes in our finances so that we match up our dreams for our marriage and our budget so that we are actually fueling the dreams for our marriage with our resources. That means we are going to have to start saying no to some other things in order to say yes to things that will actually fuel our dreams for our marriage. It's going to take some change, but the payoff is huge.

One month is going to be called TwoDrink and it's about being intoxicated with one another for a lifetime. The scriptures actually use that language to talk about the physical relationship between a husband and wife. That month we are going to challenge you to fight against bedroom boredom. It's going to feel a little bit risky for some of you because for some of you, it's been a conversation that you haven't been able to have for years.

When you don't have one of those conversations for years, all of the sudden you don't even know how to talk about it anymore. We are going to say you need to talk about it. We are going to just invite you to have this conversation as husband and wife about things that you want to talk about but you haven't been sure how to. It's going to feel a little bit vulnerable, and some of you might need to step into new places in your love life. It might feel a little bit risky, but the payoff is great.

Then we are going to do one of my favorites. Well my TwoDrink is my favorite, but my second favorite one is TwoSweat. We'll talk about actually living a healthy lifestyle as husband and wife. The Bible actually says a lot about trying to be the most attractive you for your spouse and actually living that way. For us to do that, it's actually going to hurt a little bit. That's because there's no pill for it. It's these things called diet and exercise and it's going to hurt a little bit.

I can already hear some of you grumbling. Can't we just go back to Egypt? No! No! Here's why: because choosing sand over Promised Land is pathetic. But it's easier to go this way. But it's more familiar to go this way, even though it's leading to a crummy place. That's a pathetic choice. We are calling you to something bigger. We are calling you to God's dream for your marriage. It's a beautiful dream; it's a beautiful place that God is bringing you to that you have a one flesh love for a lifetime and that is worth fighting for. So we are going to invite you to live the adventure and fight for it.

This is sort of the end of our three week introduction of what this ministry is about. Next week we begin the first Igniter and the adventures begin. We already have 60 of you that are going to be hosts of some of these adventures. Next week we are going to bring some of those out to you. You are not going to want to miss that.

Today I want to set before you a Kadesh moment for your marriage. I am going to ask you to consider where your marriage currently is and which direction it is heading in. Is it heading towards God's dream for your marriage or is it heading for something less? Make the decision as husband and wife as to which direction you are going to go this year. Is it worth fighting for? Will you be willing to take the risk and make the effort this year to have your marriage arrive in a place where God wants it to be?

Father,

We thank you that you are already at work in the lives of people here, Lord. Father, I want to pray for people that are single here, maybe single again. Lord, maybe this series has really brought some things to the surface that have been a little bit painful, maybe a little bit difficult for them to even be sitting through this. Lord, I just pray for them that you would comfort them. Maybe it's good, Lord, that some of these things have come to the surface so that they will be known to them and you could just minister to them in that pain. God, I pray that you would give them a big dream of what you have in store for them.

God, I pray for married couples wherever their marriage is at, Lord, that you would help them see which direction it's heading. I pray that this would be a Kadesh moment for

marrriages and we'd make a very intentional decision as husbands and wives about whether or not we'll be willing to live the adventure and grab hold of what you have in store for us. God, I pray that there wouldn't be a couple in this room that would wimp out; there wouldn't be a couple in this room that would start grumbling and complaining against your plan and choose sand over Promised Land, but that every single couple here would realize that where you want to bring their marriage is worth fighting for.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Can I give you a piece of homework? Last week when I talked about dreaming big together, I had a lot of couples come up to me and say they did that and it was great. But I had some couples come up to me and say they tried that and it was awkward and they weren't quite sure if they did it right. So can I just really simplify this message?

Here's the homework: I'm going to encourage you. Can I just speak to husbands and wives for a moment? I'm going to encourage you to go home, as husband and wife, and have a conversation today about whether you will commit to fight for your marriage to make it be all that God wants it to be. That you will take the risk, that you'll make the effort, that you'll make the change.

I want to commit to my wife. I just want to commit to you, babe. I am willing to do whatever it takes to fight for our marriage to make it everything that God wants it to be.

I just want to encourage you to have that conversation before the sun goes down tonight. Would you, as husbands and wives, in bedrooms all across Gilbert, have that conversation and look at each other and commit to one another to fight for this thing because you want to choose to live the adventure and choose the Promised Land over sand.

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