

SESSION 24 – GAME-CHANGERS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this session we are going to give you 20 practical ideas that can help you “die to live” in your marriage. We call them _____ .

II. TWENTY GAME-CHANGERS

1. A servant leader includes his wife in _____ the future.
2. A servant leader accepts the responsibility of spiritual _____ in his marriage.
3. A servant leader is honest with his family and with himself about his own _____ .
 - o “Flawed leaders are successful because they’re not preoccupied with protecting their image. ... A limping leader is the kind of person God uses to accomplish amazing things.” – Dan Allender, *Leading with a Limp*
4. A servant leader discusses the household responsibilities with his wife and makes sure that they are _____ distributed.
5. A servant leader seeks the _____ of his wife on all major financial decisions.
6. A servant leader _____ with commitments he has made to his wife.
7. A servant leader anticipates the different _____ of his marriage.
8. A servant leader manages potential _____ so that he can connect with his wife and family.
9. A servant leader makes sure that he and his wife have a will in place and have arranged a well-conceived _____ in the event of his death.
10. A servant leader develops a healthy relationship with his wife’s _____ .
11. A servant leader joins a _____ of men who are dedicated to growing as husbands and fathers.
 - o Proverbs 27:17 (ESV) “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”
12. A servant leader pays attention to the _____ of the home and anticipates any pressure points.

13. A servant leader celebrates and _____ his wife frequently and publicly.
14. A servant leader encourages his wife to _____ as an individual and provides time and resources for her to pursue her own interests.
15. A servant leader expresses his love for his wife in a variety of ways that speak _____ to her.
16. A servant leader points his wife to _____ .
17. A servant leader allows his wife to _____ him.
 - “Men who allow their wives to influence them have happier marriages and are less likely to divorce than men who resist their wives’ influence.” – Marriage expert Dr. John Gottman
 - Proverbs 27:9 (ESV) “The sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.”
18. A servant leader initiates family _____ around important celebrations and holidays.
19. A servant leader has learned how to be both _____ and _____ .
 - “The husband is called to lead like Jesus who is the Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5) and the Lamb of God (Rev. 5:6) – he was lionhearted and lamblike, strong and meek, tough and tender, aggressive and responsive, bold and brokenhearted. He sets the pattern for manhood.” – Pastor John Piper
20. A servant leader keeps _____ at the center of his marriage.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which Game-Changer challenged you the most? Discuss.
2. What is one thing you can begin doing today to be a better servant leader to your wife?
3. Game-Changer #3 says an Authentic Man is honest with his family about his own imperfections. What does that look like in your home?
4. Who are the other men in your life who are truly challenging and encouraging you to be a better husband and father (Game-Changer #1)?
5. Reread the quotation by John Piper: "The husband is called to lead like Jesus who is the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God – he was both lionhearted and lamblike, strong and meek, tough and tender, aggressive and responsive, bold and broken hearted. He sets the pattern for manhood." What does it look like to be both tough and tender as a husband and as a man? What does it look like in your marriage to follow Jesus' example in being both tough and tender for your wife?

ANSWERS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this session we are going to give you 20 practical ideas that can help you “die to live” in your marriage. We call them **game-changers** .

II. TWENTY GAME-CHANGERS

1. A servant leader includes his wife in **envisioning** the future.
2. A servant leader accepts the responsibility of spiritual **leadership** in his marriage.
3. A servant leader is honest with his family and with himself about his own **imperfections** .
 - o “Flawed leaders are successful because they’re not preoccupied with protecting their image. ... A limping leader is the kind of person God uses to accomplish amazing things.” – Dan Allender, *Leading with a Limp*
4. A servant leader discusses the household responsibilities with his wife and makes sure that they are **fairly** distributed.
5. A servant leader seeks the **consultation** of his wife on all major financial decisions.
6. A servant leader **follows through** with commitments he has made to his wife.
7. A servant leader anticipates the different **seasons** of his marriage.
8. A servant leader manages potential **distractions** so that he can connect with his wife and family.
9. A servant leader makes sure that he and his wife have a will in place and have arranged a well-conceived **plan** in the event of his death.
10. A servant leader develops a healthy relationship with his wife’s **family** .
11. A servant leader joins a **small group** of men who are dedicated to growing as husbands and fathers.
 - o Proverbs 27:17 (ESV) “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”
12. A servant leader pays attention to the **schedule** of the home and anticipates any pressure points.
13. A servant leader celebrates and **praises** his wife frequently and publicly.
14. A servant leader encourages his wife to **grow** as an individual and provides time and resources for her to pursue her own interests.

15. A servant leader expresses his love for his wife in a variety of ways that speak **specifically** to her.
16. A servant leader points his wife to **Jesus** .
17. A servant leader allows his wife to **influence** him.
 - “Men who allow their wives to influence them have happier marriages and are less likely to divorce than men who resist their wives’ influence.” – Marriage expert Dr. John Gottman
 - Proverbs 27:9 (ESV) “The sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.”
18. A servant leader initiates family **traditions** around important celebrations and holidays.
19. A servant leader has learned how to be both **tough** and **tender** .
 - “The husband is called to lead like Jesus who is the Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5) and the Lamb of God (Rev. 5:6) – he was lionhearted and lamblike, strong and meek, tough and tender, aggressive and responsive, bold and brokenhearted. He sets the pattern for manhood.” – Pastor John Piper
20. A servant leader keeps **grace** at the center of his marriage.