

Strengthening Your Marriage Through Homeschooling

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“In the enriching of marriage, the big things are the little things. It is a constant appreciation for each other and a thoughtful demonstration of gratitude. It is the encouraging and the helping of each other to grow. Marriage is a joint quest for the good, the beautiful, and the divine.” - James E. Faust

1. Is Homeschooling Strengthening or Weakening your Marriage?

“We call upon parents to devote their best efforts to the teaching and rearing of their children in gospel principles which will keep them close to the Church. The home is the basis of a righteous life, and no other instrumentality can take its place or fulfill its essential functions in carrying forward this God-given responsibility.” -The First Presidency

Challenges either draw us closer or pull us apart.

2 Nephi 2

“thou knowest the greatness of God; and he shall consecrate thine afflictions for thy gain.”

“For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things. If not so, my firstborn in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad.”

“No other work transcends that of righteous, intentional parenting!” -President Russell M. Nelson

2. Supporting and Honoring Differences

“*Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other*” -The Family: A Proclamation to the World

“I trust you”

“Dad’s work is important to me.”

“Mom’s work is important to me”

3. Homeschooling Practices that Support Marriage

Develop routines, habits, and homeschooling practices that support a healthy marriage and, in turn, your marriage will become the greatest support to your homeschool.

How we do this together...Family read alouds/ Book discussions/ Shared experiences/ Service/ Farming and other manual labor/ Road trips/ CNN 10 News discussions

Mentor meetings & Interviews
“kid free” time

4. How to Enrich our Marriage

As a member of the Seventy, President James E. Faust of the First Presidency discussed the causes of divorce, focusing on one in particular: “Among them are . . . selfishness, immaturity, lack of commitment, inadequate communication, unfaithfulness; and all of the rest, which are obvious and well known. “In my experience there is another reason which seems not so obvious, but which precedes and laces through all of the others. It is the lack of a constant enrichment in marriage. It is an absence of that something extra which makes it precious, special, and wonderful, when it is also drudgery, difficult, and dull.”

Take time for each other

Couples who thrive have fun together

Acts of Kindness

Better Communication-Talk frequently and positively

From President Hinckley- In our old age my beloved companion said to me quietly one evening, “You have always given me wings to fly, and I have loved you for it.”

Resources: *Strengthening Marriage: Instructor’s Guide*, session six: Enriching Marriage. Equality in the Marriage Relationship handout