



SUNDAY LESSONS

This Month's Topic:
**Marriage and
Family**



MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT

"It is so rewarding to be married. Marriage is wonderful. In time you begin to think alike and have the same ideas and impressions. You have times when you are extremely happy, times of testing, and times of trial, but the Lord guides you through all of those growth experiences together."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "The Eternal Blessings of Marriage," *Ensign*, May 2011, 96.

WHY MARRIAGE IS *Awesome!*

We love being married, and here's why.

By Ben and Rachel Nielsen

After our first date, we both knew we wanted to go on a second date. Ben wanted to go on another date because Rachel was friendly and fun to talk to. Rachel wanted to go on another date because Ben was a gentleman and was still smiling after *all* of his well-laid plans fell through. After the second date, plus many more dates and prayers after that, we fell in love and decided to get married in the Sacramento California Temple.

The wedding day was absolutely perfect, and we have loved being married ever since. The world may see marriage differently, but we know that “no other relationship of any kind can bring as much joy, generate as much good, or produce as much personal refinement.”¹ Marriage is awesome, and here's why.

FROM BEN: *A Teammate*

During my mission in Brazil, I grew to love soccer. One thing that I love most about this sport is having teammates and learning how to work together with my team. Rachel is a fantastic teammate. She helps me achieve my goals, joins me in making important decisions, and is there for me when I have trouble.

When we were sealed in the temple, we promised to “help one another as equal partners.”² Rachel and I strive to support each other in everything we do, and it's great to know that I always have a reliable teammate.

FROM RACHEL: *Expressions of Love*

Let's face it, girls (and boys), it's nice to know that someone loves you. And when you're married, you have chances to share and receive love every day! When I was talking to my parents about the possibility of marrying Ben, my dad said, “Whomever you choose to marry, I want him to frequently and sincerely express his love for you like Elder Richard G. Scott did for his wife.”³ I listened to Dad.

I decided to marry Ben, and he has always made an effort to express his love to me in small and big ways. During my senior year of college, I worked for months to prepare, apply, and interview for a prestigious internship. And when I finally heard that I got the job, I came home and saw a vase full of flowers from my husband. He knew how hard I had worked and how much the internship meant to me. At other times, he'll hide my favorite drink and a love note in the fridge before he heads out for a weekend Scout camp. And every day, he'll do the dishes and make me laugh. Ben is great at expressing his love for me, and that brings both of us great joy.



FROM BEN: *More Enjoyment*

Dating Rachel is so much fun. In fact, we make sure that we still frequently go on dates even as a married couple. After we first met, we found that we enjoy many of the same activities: walking through parks, attending plays, watching sporting events, eating new and different food, listening to music, and so much more. I loved doing these things before I met Rachel, but they're even more fun now that we get to share them together. When you're married, you have someone to enjoy life with—and that makes life awesome.

FROM RACHEL: *An Eternal Missionary Companion*

Before I met Ben, I was nearing the age of missionary service and had seriously considered serving a full-time mission. But then Ben entered my life, and I knew that Heavenly Father had a different plan for me.

When Ben and I got engaged, relatives who knew about my thoughts to serve a mission asked me about my choice, and I would tell them, "I decided that I wanted to pick my own missionary companion—and stay with him for eternity."

When you're married, you and your spouse have the chance to participate in the work of salvation together. Ben and I have found great joy in building a Christ-centered home, studying and living the gospel together,

serving in the Church, and inviting others to come unto Christ. As we work together to build the kingdom of God, we grow closer, our love deepens, and life is more fulfilling.

TAKE IT FROM US

Despite what the world may say, marriage *is* awesome and *is* worth making a priority. When you're married, you have a teammate, you give and receive love, you enjoy life more fully, and you have someone to build the kingdom of God with. All of that brings us great joy, and because we were sealed in the temple, we can have this joy forever! If we keep our covenants, we will be together for eternity and receive the crowning blessings of the priesthood. We "have found in marriage the richest fulfillment of human existence."⁴ **NE**

Ben and Rachel Nielsen live in Utah, USA.

NOTES

1. L. Whitney Clayton, "Marriage: Watch and Learn," *Ensign*, May 2013, 83.
2. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
3. See Richard G. Scott, "The Eternal Blessings of Marriage," *Ensign*, May 2011, 96.
4. James E. Faust, "Enriching Your Marriage," *Ensign*, Apr. 2007, 6.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Things to Ponder for Sunday

- What qualities and attitudes make for the strongest and happiest marriages and families?
- What are you doing now that will help your future marriage and family stay strong and happy?

Things You Might Do

- Share with some friends your goal of marrying and having a family, and tell them why.
- In church, share why you are looking forward to marriage and family and how you are preparing for them.