



October 2015

*Praises & Prayers*

# I Still Do is Just Around The Corner



As of today 235 churches across the country have signed up to host the FamilyLife® “I Still Do®” event!

Go to [IStillDo.com](http://IStillDo.com) to find an event near you.

**What is it?** A powerful, practical, one-day marriage event where couples can invest in and strengthen their marriage. Couples will join thousands of others to affirm the fundamental importance of strong, healthy, committed marriages in every culture. By exploring God’s design for marriage, couples will have a chance to reaffirm that their marriage matters – to their children and to the rest of society.

### The Sessions

**I Take You**—Honoring God in Your Marriage

**To Have and To Hold**—Lessons Learned about Communication and Resolving Conflict

Alex Kendrick presents:  
**To Love You, To Honor You**—The Importance of Prayer in Your Marriage

Dennis and Barbara Rainey present:  
**As Long as We Both Shall Live**—The Essential Elements for a Marriage That Goes the Distance

The day concludes with a **Vow Renewal**



### Our Local Church

We are so proud of our local church, Midtowne Church, here in Benton AR. The volunteers that have helped us put on the Art of Marriage the last two years have stepped up and are hosting the I Still Do event. It is exciting to see lay-leaders taking the initiative to lead marriage ministry in our community!

### We Would Love To Help You

If you would like to start a marriage ministry in your church. Please contact us, we would love to help you get started!

*Nathan & Jennifer*

**Praise:** For a very successful Oneness Prayer Challenge last month! We pray that this is just the beginning... that couples will continue to grow in their prayer life together and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

**Pray:** For the I Still Do event. Pray that God will meet each couple that attends, that couples will be strengthened, that couples will renew their marriage commitment, and that couples in need of restoration will find help and hope in Jesus Christ.

**Pray:** For us as we continue to lead a couples bible study in our home each week, as well as personally mentor Jared and Brandy. Pray that we will have wisdom and mentor all these couples well.

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

**Matthew 7:24-25**



Keep Christ in the Center of Your Holiday Season

# Thanksgiving



## Count Your Blessings

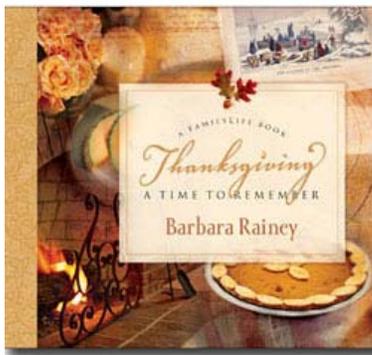
One year traveling to visit family for Thanksgiving, the kids were arguing in the back seat (although I am sure this only happens in our car). So to change the atmosphere I made up a game... they had to take turns thanking God for something, they couldn't repeat anything, and they only had a few seconds to come up with something. It took a little while to get started, but within a couple minutes they were really getting creative and detailed. Nathan and I ended up chiming in from time to time too. I think we ended up spending over an hour thanking God for all our blessings. It totally changed the atmosphere in our car as well as our hearts. Now the kids look forward to playing Count Your Blessings each Thanksgiving.

## Thanksgiving A Time To Remember by Barbara Rainey

This is my favorite Thanksgiving book! It gives an account of the real story of the first Thanksgiving. I love how it honors the Christian heritage of this holiday. You can read the book 2 ways:

1. For the little ones—read the large print and get a summary of the story, easier for younger children to understand. If you have really young ones, I would recommend reading the book in small increments over several days before Thanksgiving.
2. For older children and adults—read the little print on each page to learn more details and go more in-depth.

The book also includes a cd with songs and hymns of praise.



We have 3 extra copies of this book. The first 3 people to contact us, will get the book sent to them for FREE!

Or you can order your own copy at [shop.familylife.com](http://shop.familylife.com)

## Oneness Prayer Challenge Update

Thank you to those that joined us in the Oneness Prayer Challenge last month. We heard from so many of you that signed up! We pray that this challenge is just the beginning... we pray you continue to develop your prayer life with your spouse and that you will both experience a new closeness and intimacy with God.

*If you missed out, don't worry you can still sign up! We had such a great response to this prayer challenge, FamilyLife is keeping it going.*

Go to [FamilyLife.com/pray](http://FamilyLife.com/pray) and sign up. You can receive texts or email messages for 30 days, starting the day you sign up.

Here is just one of the many comments we received on our FaceBook page about the challenge.

***"Thank you for making this challenge available for free. The daily prompts have been a real blessing to me & my husband as we have started this new journey of daily praying together with and for one another!!!! God is doing big things!!!!!"*** (From Terrie, Prayer Challenge Participant)

