

## Living Life with the Houston's Recommended Reading List for Marriages

### **Kingdom Marriage**

*By Dr. Tony Evans*

In this book, Dr. Evans explains what marriage is really about and how your marriage can align with God's purposes, no matter what state your relationship is in right now.

We like this book because it challenges us to view marriage in a way that we hadn't considered before... as a contribution to God's kingdom. This focus on a higher purpose has challenged us to use our marriage (the good and the awful) as a tool to reach others.

### **Sacred Marriage**

*By Gary Thomas*

This book helps you shift your focus from marital enrichment to spiritual enrichment in ways that can help you love your mate more.

We like this book because whereas other books focus on the lateral relationship between you and your spouse, this book focuses on the vertical relationship between you and God. It has challenged us to view our marriage as a tool that God uses to help us see ourselves more clearly and to follow Him more nearly.

### **Love & Respect**

*By Dr. Emerson Eggerichs*

This book helps couples at all stages (healthy, fractured, new, seasoned...) manage conflict in a healthy way, change toxic behaviors, and develop and enjoy new passion.

We like this book because we read it at a time when our marriage was in crisis. It helped us see where our breakdowns were and how we could begin to get back on track. It helped us focus on how we could change our thoughts and behaviors to positively impact our marriage vs. focusing solely on the things that the other person wasn't doing. In other words, it helped us get off of "The Crazy Cycle."

### **4 Seasons of Marriage**

*By Dr. Gary Chapman*

This book helps couples take the temperature of their marriage and gives very practical strategies that will help you strengthen and enhance your relationship.

We like this book because of the very helpful, actionable strategies contained in it. It's as if Dr. Chapman has given us a customizable marriage playbook that we can use to ward off temptations for our marriage to "fall in the hole." And for those marriages, that have begun to grow stale, he provides insight into how to turn things around and begin to thrive.

