

**Leader:**

O God, you know our hunger for your love. You also know our tendency to be distracted and to ignore you.

Lead us with your voice.

Teach us your love song.

Guide us in our dance.

Hold us up in our three-legged race.

Watch over us as we protect our marriage, which is our treasure and our home.

Help us appreciate the role you have given to us as co-creators with you of human life.

For all you do for us, we praise you and we thank you.

*Pause*

**Leader:**

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**All: Our Father, . . . Amen. +**

**Key Messages of Session Six**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Matthew 5: 8). In this Beatitude Jesus invites us to look at life from God’s point of view. When we do, we feel gratitude.

In this session, spouses are invited to reflect on the gifts they have received from God, including their sexuality. Spouses are collaborators with God in the creation of new life.

*“All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.”*

Psalm 145:10

**Opening Prayer - Session Six**

*The* **BEATITUDES:** A Couple’s Path to Greater Joy

*Your Marriage is  
a Celebration of Life*

*Begin the prayer with the following or similar words.*

**Leader:**

The theme for this session is that our marriage is a celebration of life.

Let us quiet our minds and open our hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God’s presence.

*Pause*

**+ In the name of the Father . . .**

**All: We thank you, O God, for all the gifts you have given us this day.  
We thank you especially for our spouse and for the gift that we are to each other.**

**As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to help us be aware of your presence in our lives,  
and help us to listen to your voice.**

**Leader:** *Reflection*

In the Gospel of Matthew  
Jesus proclaims:  
“Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.”

He is telling us to look at our life  
the way that God sees it,  
and to embrace God’s plan for marriage.

In marriage God calls us  
to be sacraments of his love  
and to be co-creators  
and nurturers of human life.

When our hearts are pure  
we can hear God’s voice guiding us  
in all the moments of our lives —  
in the good times and in the bad.

His voice is a gift of love.

We respond to his gift  
with praise and thanksgiving.

*Pause*

**Leader:**

Let us pray together Psalm 139.

**All: O Lord, you have searched me  
and known me.  
You know when I sit down  
and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

**For it was you who formed  
my inward parts;  
you knit me together  
in my mother’s womb.**

**I praise you for I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.**

**Your eyes beheld  
my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**

**Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

*Psalm 139: 1-2, 13-16, 23, 24*

*Pause*