

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

MARRIAGES EXPERIENCE STALE PERIODS; MUST BE ENERGIZED

QUESTION: My wife and I love each other very much, but we're going through a time of apathy. We just don't feel close to each other. Is this normal, and is there a way to bring back the fire?

DR. DOBSON: This happens sooner or later in every marriage. A man and woman just seem to lose the wind in their romantic sails for a period of time.

Their plight reminds me of seamen back in the days of wooden vessels. Sailors in that era had much to fear, including pirates, storms and diseases. But their greatest fear was that the ship might encounter the doldrums. The Doldrums was an area of the ocean near the equator characterized by calm and very light shifting winds. It could mean certain death for the entire crew. The ship's food and water supply would be exhausted as they drifted for days, or even weeks, waiting for a breeze to put them back on course.

Well, marriages that were once exciting and loving can also get caught in the romantic doldrums, causing a slow and painful death to the relationship. Author Doug Fields, in his book "Creative Romance," writes, "Dating and romancing your spouse can change those patterns, and it can be a lot of fun. There's no quick fix to a



Dr. Dobson

stagnant marriage, of course, but you can lay aside the excuses and begin to date your sweetheart."

In fact, you might want to try thinking like a teenager again. Let me explain.

Recall for a moment the craziness of your dating days — the coy attitudes, the flirting, the fantasies, the chasing after the prize. As we moved from courtship into marriage, most of us felt we should grow up and leave the game playing behind. But we may not have matured as much as we'd like to think.

In some ways, our romantic relationships will always bear some characteristics of adolescent sexuality. Adults still love the thrill of the chase, the lure of the unattainable, excitement of the new and boredom with the old. Immature impulses are controlled and minimized in a committed relationship, of course, but they never fully disappear.

This could help you keep vitality in your marriage. When things have grown stale between you and your spouse, maybe you should remember some old tricks. How about breakfast in bed? A kiss in the rain? Or rereading those old love letters together? A night in a nearby

hotel? Roasting marshmallows by an open fire? A phone call in the middle of the day? A long-stem red rose and a love note? There are dozens of ways to fill the sails with wind once more.

If it all sounds a little immature to act like a teenager again, just keep this in mind: In the best marriages, the chase is never really over.

QUESTION: As a single mother, I'd like to leave my children with friends or relatives for a few days and get some time for myself, but I'm worried about how this might affect them. Will they feel deserted again?

DR. DOBSON: Not only is a brief time away from your children not likely to be hurtful — it will probably be healthy for them. One of the special risks faced by single parents is the possibility of a dependency relationship developing that will trap their children at an immature stage. This danger is increased when wounded people cling to each other exclusively for support in stressful times. Spending a reasonable amount of time apart can teach independence and give everyone a little relief from the routine. Therefore, if you have a clean, safe place to leave your children for a week or two, by all means, do it. You'll be more refreshed and better able to handle your usual "homework" when you return.

Dr. Dobson is founder and Chairman Emeritus of the nonprofit organization Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80995 (www.focusonthefamily.org). Questions and answers are excerpted from "Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide" and "Bringing Up Boys," both published by Tyndale House.

Pray for our nation to seek God

From the fruit of his mouth a good man eats good, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence. Proverbs 13:2 Pd. Adv.

Lessons from the Heart

Is it Groundhog Day again?

By Rev. Bill McLean

The 1993 movie "Groundhog Day" tells the story of Phil, a self-centered weatherman who is focused on advancing his career and is unaware that there is anyone else in the world.



McLean

After being sent to cover the Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, Pa., Phil finds himself trapped as he wakes up each morning living the same day Feb. 2, Groundhog Day over and over again.

How many times have we felt trapped in our own lives? We get caught up in the routines of our daily lives and suddenly without even realizing it the days blur together as the seasons fly by. We isolate ourselves from our loved ones by focusing on misplaced priorities or destructive behaviors like abusing alcohol and using illegal drugs.

Over the movie's 101 minutes, Phil spends months or maybe years repeating the same day over and over again. Eventually, this self-centered weatherman begins to learn that there is more to life than material wealth and fame. As the movie ends, Phil wakes up a changed person on Feb. 3 having discovered that there is more to life than fame and prestige as he discovers what it means to love.

We may not be caught re-living Feb. 2 over and over like Phil but we can each find ourselves trapped when we live each day only for ourselves. As Phil learned, we need love in our lives because: "Love is patient; love

is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NRSV.

In each of our lives we can be trapped re-living Groundhog Day over and over again

as we focus only on ourselves. Or, we can be set free and live our lives focused on loving and serving God as well as God's people as we demonstrate that "... faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13, NRSV.

Bill McLean is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Delphi.

Library

Local minister leads legislators in prayer

State Sen. Brandt Hershman (R-Wheatfield) welcomed the Rev. Ed Selvidge to the Statehouse last week as he led the State Senate in prayer before the convening of Tuesday's session.

Selvidge of Camden is the pastor of Radnor United Methodist Church.

"Rev. Selvidge is an inspirational leader and I was proud to welcome him here to represent our area," Hershman said.

Senate lawmakers and staff are led in invocation before the convening of each day of the legislative session.

"This serves as a time to

unite and bring lawmakers together from both sides of the aisle," Hershman said. "I encourage other faith leaders in our community to contact me if they are interested in giving the opening prayer during a future Senate session."

Faith leaders throughout Indiana will be visiting the Statehouse to participate in Pastors' Statehouse Day on Feb. 23 between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Hershman said.

For more information or to register for Pastors' Statehouse Day, contact Rev. Matthew Barnes with the Capitol Commission Indiana at matthew.barnes@capitol-com.org or call 513-509-3443.

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SW = Sunday Worship	SS = Sunday School
<p>AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Rousakis, pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Dave Osborne, Pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study (Thur): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: SS: 11:00 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSVILLE FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSVILLE CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURNETTSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Mark Gayler, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.</p> <p>COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Pastor Clint Fink, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.</p> <p>CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor, SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingaman, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: SR 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Herron, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. Sundaes on Thurs. 7 p.m. (informal worship & ice cream)</p> <p>DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.</p> <p>DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor, Micah Hudson, youth pastor.</p> <p>DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Jim Crown, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. W 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.</p> <p>FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.</p> <p>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Twp. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Monthly Youth Group</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ): S. Center Street, Flora. Woody Slade, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.</p> <p>FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St, Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SS: 9:15, SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Rex Charles, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Mark Ramey, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m.</p> <p>HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>LIVING STONE CHURCH: 54 Main St., Rossville. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m., Children's church available</p> <p>LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. James Baughman, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10:00 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m.</p> <p>PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELPHI: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.</p> <p>ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.</p> <p>ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9a.m., SW: 10 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. John Evert, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. Alan Wyatt, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wed. 7 p.m.</p> <p>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. SW: 8:30 a.m.. SS: Same as Worship.</p> <p>WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280</p> <p>YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: David Harris, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.</p>

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