**Isaiah 35:1-2**

**The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;  2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.**

**In April we showered our marriages to spring forth growth, In the month of May we should see the blossoms of our spring showers. We wrote in our TOGETHER journals, we highlighted an event and expressed how we individually envisioned that event. Now in the month of May, we are going to expound on our relationships and see how we are growing together in spirit, in love, in our roles as wife / husband. We will increase our friendship bond, because good marriages are often times built on good friendship. Your spouse should be your best friend. Communication is a key factor in a budding relationship and is one area that marriages struggle. A lot of times when couples say irreconcilable differences, it means they cannot communicate and come to a mutual agreement on how to fix what is broken. In our relationship with God, we must pray and meditate to grow in Christ – We must adhere to God’s commands and instructions and it is not just about us praying and asking for stuff, but for us to pray and listen. In marriage, it is the also an essential ingredient in success, we must communicate, have a two way conversation with our spouse. We must express and listen. We must have patience and also understanding. We can’t just hear but listen.**

**Activity:  This is going to be simple for the month of May.  At least twice a week recommended in the middle of the work week and then one weekend day, set aside time to talk. Have a conversation about whatever;  If you want make a topic jar (Get a jar and husband put in 6 topics that he would like to discuss and wife put in 6 topics) and on your set aside time pull out 1 or 2 and discuss. Remember this is discussion time and not a time to argue, you can disagree but remember listen to your spouse and take in what they are saying.  You may not see things the way they do.  In your TOGETHER JOURNALS make a chart and write down the topic and rate it as how you believed you and your spouse have grown with discussing the topic.  1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.  Be honest in your charting, because if you are at a 1 now, then you have growth in that topic and will need to work on that in your marriage.  If you are at a 5 that is great and discuss how you will stay at that 5 with that topic.**

**​\*\*\*Reminder: Take a few moments to pray for your spouse and for your marriage. You may already do this, but do a special prayer this month, just for your spouse and your marriage.**