

# The Riedy Reader

## April 2020



One of the most comforting things that I have heard from recent newscasts (yep, I actually found something comforting on the news!) was that, “this current crisis will have a beginning, a middle, and an end”. Obvious I know, but that was something I needed to be reminded. I think maybe because the experts cannot give us a calendar date for that end, it can be easy to forget that it exists. Knowing that there will be an end doesn't diminish how hard this ‘messy middle’ is, but it does give us hope. This vision of an end can also help keep us motivated. For example, I don't want to just sit on the couch and eat ice cream for a month because someday I will be zipping into jeans again. Or I don't want to let the housecleaning totally slide because someday I will have friends over again. Remembering there is an end gives me better perspective.

I think we all need to give ourselves permission to have some down times (with extra ice cream and extra clutter), we just don't want to stay there 24/7. Not everything is canceled...nature isn't canceled, reading isn't canceled, learning isn't canceled, faith isn't canceled, and of course **home** isn't canceled!

### #HOMEISNTCANCELED

Need help navigating this new COVID-19 normal?

Start Here



Consider this encouragement from the [FamilyLife.com/notcanceled/](https://www.familylife.com/notcanceled/) web page:

*Welcome to your new normal. The global pandemic is hitting all of our homes. We're stuck inside while the rest of life is canceled.*

*But as we all know, home isn't canceled. No one knows how long we'll be here so we're deciding to settle in and together find ways to make the most of it.*

FAMILYLIFE'S

# BLENDED & BLESSED®

BUILDING LOVE Together



Watch **Dr. Gary Chapman & Ron Deal** live on April 25<sup>th</sup>

**Livestreaming April 25, 2020** | **\$19**  
Watch from your own home

[blendedandblessed.com](https://www.blendedandblessed.com)

You or a stepfamily you know can register to join this event from your home via livestream! Or if your local church already purchased a livestream option, they can provide a login for you. Blended & Blessed® is a great opportunity to bring couples together for 5 hours of teaching, music, and humor!

<https://www.blendedandblessed.com>

*At FamilyLife, we believe your family can grow closer to God, grow stronger together, and serve your neighbors abundantly during this crisis.*

All of FamilyLife® staff is working from home, but working hard to help those who are also stuck at home as well. Any audio or video broadcast related to COVID-19, as well as any resource or downloadable mentioned on these broadcasts, will be available on this new landing page for quick access. We know that a number of people are riding out this 'storm' alone, without family under their same roof. Some of the audio material in particular would still be great to listen to as it deals with how we each respond in hard times. We also hope this page might give you tips and resources that you could pass along to friends and family while you stay virtually connected.

One of the most exciting things you will find on this page is three of our most popular resources being offered online for free.

\* **Vertical Marriage™**

This is a 5 session journey with humor-filled and relatable video sessions, dynamic group discussion, and intentional couple's connection. Each session has a 25-minute video session full of applicable truth, relatable anecdotes, and laugh out loud humor.



\* **The Art of Marriage®**

In The Art of Marriage, we weave together expert teaching, engaging stories, man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes and much more to portray the hope and beauty of God's design for marriage in a six session format.



\* **Stepping Up®**

Men today are in a fight for our families and our future. Facing the battles of life demands courage, and courage is the ability to do the hard thing in every circumstance, despite the cost. That's the message of Stepping Up. In a world where too many men are shrinking back, Stepping Up gives men the vision and the tools to live godly, courageous lives.



In Him,

**Tear & Prayer**



**Pray** for Charissa on her own in Springfield, MO piecing together 2 part-time jobs & Brenna home doing online college while waiting on updates from her college-uncertain times for them both!

**Pray** for families who were in crisis even before this national emergency-enforced 'home time' is esp. stressful (& sometimes dangerous) for them  
**Praise** for much of Amanda's school year continuing as planned, though it is a sad, abrupt end to the speech season with everything canceled

**Praise** for the creativity being promoted within Cru as a whole, as well as FamilyLife as we strive to share the gospel in this 'social distancing' time-  
**ministry ISN'T canceled!**