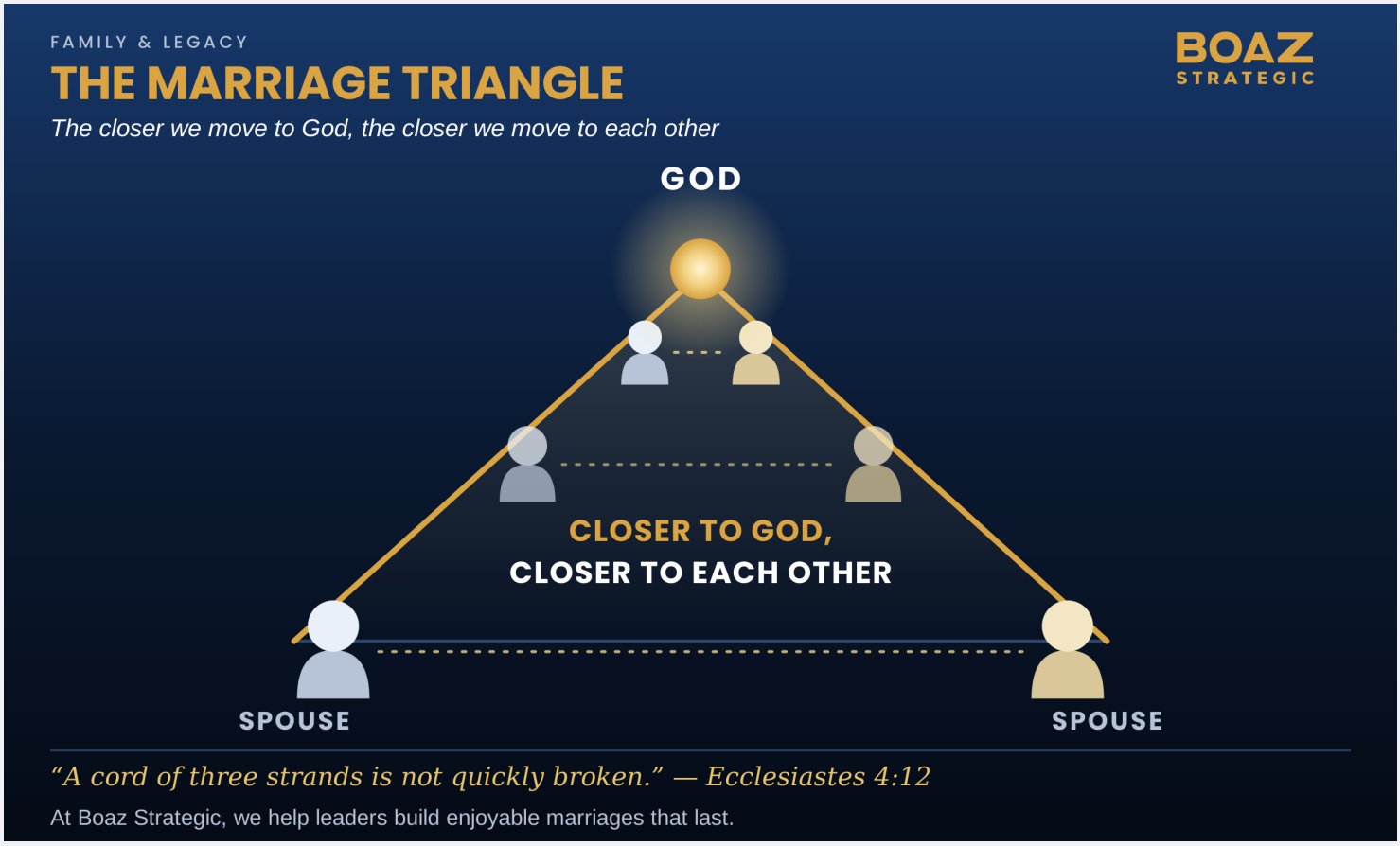


Lead your marriage *like it matters.*

> *"The closer each of us gets to God, the closer we get to each other.*

Leaders know the feeling. A tense morning at home follows you into the office. A cold silence over dinner becomes a short fuse in the afternoon meeting. The line between home and work is far thinner than we pretend.

The research agrees.

Stacy Rogers and Dee May followed a nationally representative group of married people for twelve years. Marital quality and job satisfaction moved together, and marital quality was the stronger influence. When marital satisfaction rose, so did satisfaction at work. When discord grew, job satisfaction fell.

Your marriage matters more than the business, so it needs to be treated that way: scheduled, protected and given your undivided attention, not whatever energy is left over.

Picture a triangle.

God sits at the top, and each spouse stands at one of the lower corners. As each moves toward the top, the distance between the two corners shrinks. You cannot close that gap by pulling on each other. You close it by each moving closer to God.

The writer of Ecclesiastes observed that "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Studies by Frank Fincham and colleagues point the same way: praying for one's partner was linked to less infidelity over time.

So make it practical. Pray for your spouse by name every day, and make it a point to pray with them at least once a week. You may even incorporate it into your "Home Board Meeting" we discuss in another Leadership Insight. Then let it show up in how you listen, serve and lead.

At Boaz Strategic, we help leaders build enjoyable marriages that last.

Rogers & May, J. Marriage & Family, 2003; Fincham et al., JPSP, 2010; Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

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