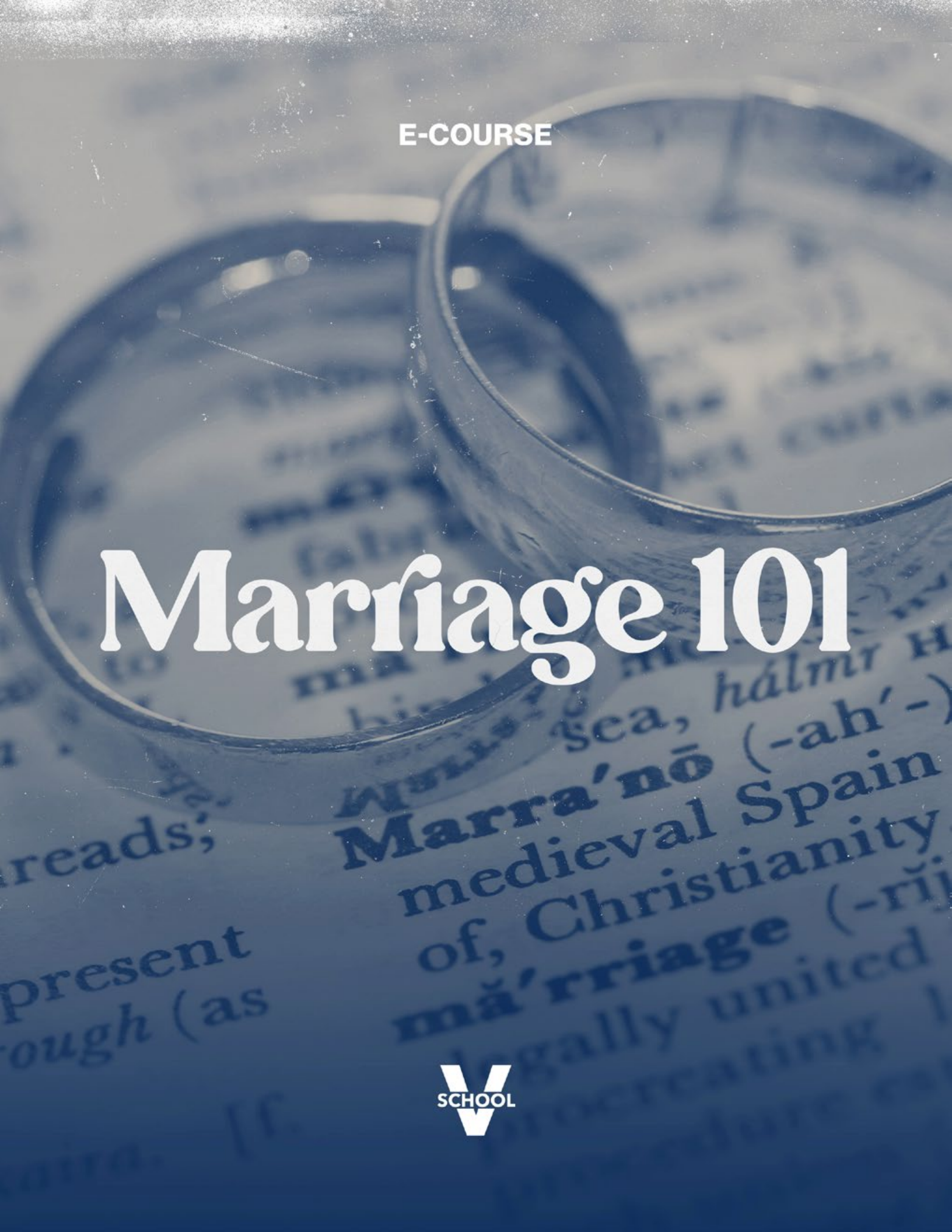
E-COURSE
Marriage 101
SCHOOL

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LESSON 1

The Purpose of Marriage

1. It's for the union between a man and a woman.

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. Mark 10:7-9

- Marriage is God's plan
- Marriage is between a man and a woman
- Marriage is to be permanent

2. It's for the multiplication of the human race.

But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. Malachi 2:15

We are all alive here today because some couples decided to get together.

3. It's for protection for kids.

God invented marriage for the protection of children. We all know that kids grow better, healthier, stronger when they grow up in a stable family with a mom and a dad. God knew that human children needed a safe environment.

4. It's for holiness.

God created marriage for the perfection of our character. It is in relationships that we learn to be unselfish and to be loving. And no relationship has a greater impact on your life than marriage, if you get married. Maturity and the purpose of life is to grow up and realize it's not all about you.

5. It's for the construction of society.

Marriage is the fundamental building block of every community, church, state, nation, society and culture. If you know anything about history you know that where marriages are strong, cultures and nations are strong. You know that wherever marriages and families are weak, cultures and nations are in decline.

6. It's for reflection of our union with Christ.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:25-32

LESSON 2

Understanding the Differences

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
1 Peter 3:7

Humor: Scientists on how to name a computer: he or she?

A computer is a *HE*

1. Turn them on in order to get their attention
2. They should solve the problem, but instead, they are the problem
3. As soon as you commit to one, you will wait for a little while you could get a better model

A computer is a *SHE* because:

1. No one but their creator can understand them
2. The smallest mistake is stored for long term memory
3. After buying it you spend more time on accessories

Common Criticisms

Men say that women are:

- Too emotional
- Don't feel the pressure to provide
- Talk too much

Women say men are:

- Not sensitive
- Don't share housework
- Don't listen

Basic differences between men and women:

1. Womens' right brain is caring, mens' left brain is logical.

In a 1981 study by Dr. Rogger Sherry from age of 16 to 26, two chemicals are released that slow development of right size in men. Therefore we as men don't remember the same. We react to stuff not the same. Men say 3 times more in public than in private, women opposite.

2. Women enjoy the process; men focus on the goal.

Women love romance; men love sex.

Men will give emotion to get sex; women will give sex to get emotions.

> *Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets?* Proverbs 5:15-16

Man is a fountain; the woman is a well.

3. Women need sensitivity; men need space.

Men, when stressed, become focused and withdrawn; women become overwhelmed and emotionally involved.

Men feel better by solving a problem; women feel better by talking about the problem.

4. Men have authority; women have intuition.

Men, don't be dictators. Women, don't be manipulators.

LESSON 3

His Needs and Her Needs

Man's Primary Needs

1. Honor and respect

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:33

Honor him where you want him to be, not where he is at right now.

2. Sex

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 1 Corinthians 7:3

It's not just his want, but his need.

3. Shared activity

Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked through a window, and saw, and there was Isaac, showing endearment to Rebekah his wife. Genesis 26:8

The word "endearment" (Strongs h6711) means to laugh, sport, mock, to jest, make sport, toy with. Isaac and Rebekkah were playing and having fun.

4. Support at home

That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Titus 2:4-5

Woman's Primary Needs

1. Security

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. Ephesians 5:25

A woman needs her man to be a sacrificial, sensitive and faithful provider. This makes her feel secure.

2. Soft, non-sexual affection

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 1 Corinthians 7:3

God has called husbands to render affection to his wife.

3. Open and honest communication

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. Ephesians 5:25-28

Jesus washes His church with His words; husbands must do the same!

4. Leadership

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Ephesians 5:23

Man is the head that should lead the family, and woman is the crown that beautifies the family!

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones. Proverbs 12:4

LESSON 4

A Covenant, Not a Contract

Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously, yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Malachi 2:14

The concept of covenant is important in the Bible. The word testament is really another word for covenant. The Bible is comprised of two parts, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant (Old Testament and New Testament).

5 Covenants in the Bible:

1. Noahic Covenant (Genesis 9)
2. Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12, 15)
3. The Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19-24)
4. The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)
5. The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31)

Covenant vs Contract:

1. A contract involves part of your life; a covenant involves your whole life.
2. A contract has an expiration; a covenant is for life.
3. The contract is written in ink, the covenant is written in blood.

What is a Marriage Covenant?

A contract is an agreement between two people for the purpose of protecting their rights, limiting their responsibilities, and safeguarding their interests.

A covenant is an unconditional surrendering and laying down of your life and your rights while increasing your responsibilities and safeguarding the interests of your covenant mate.

The importance of a covenant mindset

1. You have to see marriage as a covenant if you want to be committed to marriage.
2. Have a greater commitment to God than you are to the constitution of marriage.
3. Develop a greater commitment to marriage than you are to each other.
4. Remove the word “divorce” from your marriage conversations.
5. Don’t let thoughts “I made a mistake marrying this person” take root in your mind.
6. Prenuptial agreements are a sign that you don’t view marriage as a covenant.
7. If your marriage becomes permanent, the problems become temporary. If your marriage is temporary, your problems might become permanent.

LESSON 5

The Priority of Marriage

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

1. Priority means to leave your parents.

A healthy marriage has two independent adults who have left (physically, relationally, and emotionally) their parents.

- To leave your parents you have to leave their expectations for your life
- To leave your parents you have to start making decisions with your spouse in mind, not your parents.
- To leave your parents is to set healthy boundaries for your parents from controlling your marriage

2. Priority means to leave your single life.

3. Priority means don't leave your spouse in your pursuit of God.

Don't give to God what belongs to your marriage.

For God commanded, saying, Honor your father and your mother; and, He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God"— then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Matthew 15:4-6

4. Priority means don't cheat on your spouse with work or hobbies.

"A person who stays late at the office is not a hardworking person, instead he is a fool who does not know how to manage work within the stipulated time. He is inefficient and incompetent in his work." Dr. Abdul Kalam, former president of India, author, scientist

"Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them—work, family, health, friends, and spirit—and you're keeping all of these in the air. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls—family, health, friends, and spirit—are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged, or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life." Bryan Dyson, former CEO of Coca-Cola Enterprises

LESSON 6

The Pursuit in Marriage

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

"Be Joined" Strongs "H1692" to catch by pursuit: — abide fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take.

1. Date your mate.

If there would be more courting in our marriages, less of our marriages would be in courts. – Rick Warren

Any boy can pursue a girl, but it takes a man to pursue his wife.

2. Keep the flames of romance burning in the marriage.

Passion is the result of chemistry before marriage, but after marriage is a result of choices.

3. If you lost that passion, here is how to get it back:

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. Revelation 2:4-5

Remember
Repent
Repeat

4. Practical pursuit of your spouse.

Daily conversations.
Weekly evenings.
Yearly getaways.

LESSON 7

Roles of Husband and Wife

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 2:27

In the Godhead, we have a perfect blending of male and female characteristics. The Father God has characteristics of love, concern, provision, protection, authority, and strength. Jesus Christ the Son patterns dependence, submission, and obedience to the Father. The Holy Spirit has characteristics of comfort, fruitfulness, nourishing, and sustaining.

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3

Christ has responsibility for all men, as the husband has responsibility for his wife and God the Father has responsibility for Christ.

The following principles for the husband-wife relationship are illustrated in the relationship of Jesus and the Father:

1. Husband and wife are to share a mutual love.

For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. John 5:20

But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here. John 14:31

2. Husband and wife have different roles and accomplish different functions in the marriage.

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. John 10:17

You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. John 14:28

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. John 17:4

3. Though having different roles, a husband and a wife are equal; they live in unity.

I and My Father are one. John 10:30

4. A husband and wife are to esteem one another.

Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me." John 8:49

Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God." John 8:54

5. Husbands express love for their wives through caring for them, sharing their lives, and ministry with them, and being attentive to them.

For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. John 5:20

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son. John 5:22

And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me. John 11:42

All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 16:15

As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. John 17:2

6. Wives express love for their husbands by being of one will and purpose with them; by exercising authority entrusted to them with humility and meekness, not striving or competing; in a word, by showing respect both in attitude and action.

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." John 5:19

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. John 5:30

LESSON 8

Spiritual Warfare in Marriage

Freedom is the foundation of a good lasting relationship.

Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." Genesis 3:12

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:13

1. Marriage is like a beautiful garden from which we need to pull weeds, plant seeds, and kill snakes.

Weeds represent bad habits, such as poor communication skills.
Seeds represent a good attitude and behavior towards the spouse.
Snakes represent demons, curses, and strongholds.

2. Too many people, instead of fighting a snake, fight their spouse.

Recognize the reality of the spiritual world.
Identify the snake in your garden.
Deal with the snake accordingly

3. In spiritual warfare; attack the problem, affirm the person.

Separate the issue of the person from the identity of the person.

But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour. Matthew 9:22
The woman with the issue of blood was identified according to her illness; we don't even know her name. She had an issue, but then the issue became her identity—her name.

After she touched Jesus, He referred to her as a daughter, not a woman with the issue.

LESSON 9

Don't Control Your Spouse

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:33

1. It's not our job to change our spouse; our job is to obey God.

God called us to love, not change our spouse.

"The success of a marriage comes not in finding the right person, but in the ability of both partners to adjust to the real person they inevitably realize they married." Les & Leslie Parrott

Your spouse is like a flower, it will not grow when you pull it. Water it instead and be patient.

2. Spouse control is a sign of witchcraft.

Witchcraft is the attempt to control a person and make them do what you want by use of any spirit other than the Holy Spirit.

"*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* Galatians 5:19-20

Witchcraft is the work of the flesh.

Three ways this witchcraft manifests:

A. Manipulation (children/women)
B. Intimidation (men)
C. Domination

Anytime we seek to control a person in our marriage, we are practicing witchcraft.

3. Self-control is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*
> Galatians 5:22-23

Depend on the Holy Spirit when it's hard to love/respect your spouse.

Allow the fruit of self-control to develop in you by refusing to control the person you're married to.

When times are hard, don't do what's easy, do what's right!

Commit to being more obedient to the Lord than you are committed to the spouse.

Trust God for your needs as you obey God to meet the needs of your spouse.

Two extremes of marriage: being independent or being too dependent. A healthy balance is to be interdependent. Let your spouse grow as an individual without drifting apart.

LESSON 10

Communication

1. Complaining is good; criticizing is bad.

Complaining is sharing your feelings, using phrases like, "I feel."

Criticizing is attacking the other person, using phrases like, "You always" and "You never."

2. Seek to understand, not to respond.

He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him. Proverbs 18:13

A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart. Proverbs 18:2

3. Swift to hear. Slow to speak. Slow to anger.

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. James 1:19

He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Matthew 11:15

4. Learn to respond to God in every conversation instead of reacting to the person.

Release to the Lord negative emotions you're feeling.

Receive the peace of God.

Respond to God in this situation.

Refuse to react out of character.

5. Deal with your plank to know how to remove your spouses' speck.

And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Matthew 7:3-5

Learn to own up to your part of the problem.

Whoever apologizes first is the one who is the most mature.

Until you deal with your issue you will blow up the problem out of proportion.

LESSON 11

Love Languages

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. Ephesians 5:2

Falling in love happens by chance.

Walking in love happens by choice.

"If emotional love is to remain alive, it must be nurtured." Gary Chapman, Author of The 5 Love Languages

The 5 Love Languages (according to Dr. Gary Chapman)[1]

1. Words of affirmation
2. Quality time
3. Acts of service
4. Physical touch
5. Gifts

The 5 Love Languages (using the Example of Coffee)

1. Words of affirmation (Your coffee is delicious)
2. Quality time (Let's go for coffee)
3. Acts of service (I made you coffee)
4. Physical touch (Let me hold you like coffee)
5. Gifts (Here's some coffee for you)

How to Find a Spouse's Love Language?

1. Observe how they express love and appreciation to others?
Your spouse is speaking this love language to others; pay attention and take notice.

2. Take notice of the complaints from your spouse as they give hints of their love language.

3. Pay attention to what your spouse asks for most of the time.

4. Take the quiz.

[1]Chapman, Gary. "Discover Your Love Language - the 5 Love Languages®." Discover Your Love Language - The 5 Love Languages®, www.5lovelanguages.com/.

[2]Take the quiz here, https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/love-language

LESSON 12

Sex

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Sex is a gift to be enjoyed in the context of marriage.

The devil does his best to push singles into sex before marriage and keep the married folks out of sex in their marriage.

The Purpose of Sex

1. Procreation

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28

2. Pleasure

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love. Proverbs 5:18-19

3. Protection

Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 1 Corinthians 7:2

4. Closeness and Comfort

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." Genesis 4:1

Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him. 2 Samuel 12:24

Getting practical

1. Sex is the Superglue of Marriage.

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 1 Corinthians 6:16

2. Sex is about Serving, not Selfishness.

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

3. Understanding the Difference.

Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. Proverbs 5:15-18

A man is a fountain (always ready)

A woman is a well (needs to be drawn out)

"Sex doesn't begin in the bedroom. It begins in the kitchen, or living room, or other places. Sex is not just an act. It's a relationship." Kevin Leman, Psychologist, Author of Sheet Music

4. Pursue Purity.

Virginity is abstaining from sex before marriage, but purity is for life.

Lust, flirtation, emotional attachments, and addiction to porn will damage your sexual relationship with your spouse.

5. Deal with the Abuse.

If you have been abused, it can affect your ability to receive and give love.
Be open about it; seek professional help.

What's okay and what's not okay

1. Not Okay:

Sexual immorality is having sex with anyone other than your spouse.

Adultery (Matthew 19:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
Spouse swapping is adultery!

Threesomes (Exodus 20:14; Romans 13:9; James 2:11)
Jacob didn't have sex with Rachel and Leah at the same time (Genesis 29:21-30)

Watching porn (Job 31:1; Matthew 5:28)
Watching porn with your spouse is a virtual threesome and virtual adultery.

Rape (Colossians 3:19)
All nonconsensual sex is rape, whether in marriage or not.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 deals with giving satisfaction in sex, not demanding or forcing sex on your spouse.

2. What's okay

When it comes to oral sex, different positions or sex toys, here are the questions you have to answer!

Is it prohibited in Scripture?
If it's not prohibited, assume it's permitted.

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 1 Corinthians 6:12

Is it beneficial?
Does this harm or hinder sexual closeness?

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 1 Corinthians 6:12

Is there mutual consent?
Is the spouse forced or coerced into what she/he is not comfortable with?

Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 1 Corinthians 7:5

Thoughts on oral sex

Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste (Song of Solomon 2:3). The word "fruit" refers to the male genitals.

Awake, O north wind, and come, O south! Blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits. (Song of Solomon 4:16). The word "garden" throughout Song of Solomon refers to a woman's vagina.

"Oral sex before marriage is absolutely a sin. It is immoral. It is in no sense a biblically acceptable alternative to sexual intercourse for unmarried couples. Within the confines of marriage, oral sex is free from sin as long as there is mutual consent." [3]

Thoughts on sex toys

"When you are more focused on the need for a toy versus your mate, it is not a good thing. You can do away with your mate and just rely on the toy. We tell couples not to get involved in this."

Thoughts on anal sex

"The word sodomy does not occur in the Bible, although it does originate from a place name in the Bible. The specific sin of Genesis 19 was forcible anal rape of a man by another man. This passage does not concern marital relations. Anal sex between a husband and wife, within the confines of marriage, in the spirit of mutual consent, cannot be definitively categorized as a sin...while anal sex between a husband and his wife might not be sinful, that does not mean we endorse it. In fact, it is our conviction that anal sex is wrong, even within the confines of marriage. Medically speaking, anal sex is neither healthy nor safe. Anal sex increases the risk of tissue damage, infection, and the transmission of STDs." [4]

Final Thoughts

In the end, what matters most for your marriage is honoring God and respecting the limitations and boundaries of your spouse.

[3] GotQuestions.org. "What Does the Bible Say about Oral Sex?" GotQuestions.org, 15 Nov. 2011, www.gotquestions.org/Bible-oral-sex.html.
[4] GotQuestions.org. "What Does the Bible Say about Anal Sex?" GotQuestions.org, 3 Jan. 2013, www.gotquestions.org/Bible-anal-sex-sodomy.html.

Marriage 101 - Discussion Questions

Lesson 1: The Purpose of Marriage

Ice Breaker: What's the purpose of [your] marriage?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. What was God's original intention with marriage?
2. How can selfishness destroy a marriage?
3. What was the example of marriage you grew up with?

Memory Verse:

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. Mark 10:7-9

Lesson 2: Understanding the Differences

Ice Breaker: What are the biggest differences you believe exist between men and women?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. What is one thing that surprised you about this lesson?
2. If you are married, what is one of the main differences you have noticed between you and your spouse?
3. What does it mean to "dwell with understanding?" If you're married, give a personal example?

Memory Verse:

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7

Lesson 3: His Needs, Her Needs

Ice Breaker: Would you agree with the statement that men and women have different "needs"? Why or why not?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. According to this video, how do men "feel loved"? How do women feel loved?
2. What does it mean for a man to be "sacrificial"?
3. How would you rate your marriage when it comes to this topic? Are the needs (according to this lesson) being met?

Memory Verse:

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:33

Lesson 4: Covenant, Not Contract

Ice Breaker: What are the biggest differences you believe exist between men and women?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. Why is it important to see marriage as a covenant?
2. Do you agree with these views on a covenant marriage? Does your marriage resemble a covenant marriage?
3. What would it look like to practically be committed to God more than you are to your marriage?

Memory Verse:

Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. Mark 10:9

Lesson 5: The priority of Marriage

Ice Breaker: Describe what life was like for you when you decided to get married. If you're not married, what would be your ideal timing for marriage?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. What are some boundaries you've set in your marriage when it comes to your in-laws?
2. How do you personally honor your father and your mother?
3. Have you ever cheated on your spouse with work/hobbies? If so, how did you feel/ realize?

Memory Verse:

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Lesson 6: The Pursuit of Marriage

Ice Breaker: How did your husband pursue you?/ How did you pursue your wife before marriage? If you're not married, what does being pursued/pursuing look like?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. What is one thing you did with your spouse that you enjoyed before you were married? How can you try and implement that now?
2. How do people lose passion in marriage? How can they get it back?
3. Do you pursue your wife in marriage/Do you feel pursued in your marriage? How can you communicate this to your spouse?

Memory Verse:

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:9

Lesson 7: The Roles of The Husband and Wife

Ice Breaker: Now that you're married, is the reality of marriage like you imagined it would be? If you're not married, what do you expect marriage to look like?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. What are the differences in roles between men/women?
2. How does the relationship between a husband and wife resemble the relationship of Jesus and the Father?
3. What does this phrase mean practically: "Though having different roles, a husband and a wife are equal; they live in unity."

Memory Verse:

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3

Lesson 8: Spiritual Warfare in Marriage

Ice Breaker: What does fighting spiritual warfare alongside your spouse look like?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. According to the video, what does it mean to "pull weeds, plant seeds, and kill snakes"?
2. In an argument with your spouse, how would you fight the enemy instead of fighting them?
3. Practically, how can you separate the issue at hand from the identity of your spouse?

Memory Verse:

Call to Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

Lesson 9: Don't Control Your Spouse

Ice Breaker: What marriage do you look up to? Why?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. How can we love our spouse without trying to change them? What would that look like for you?
2. Why is manipulation considered witchcraft? How can you detect it?
3. What does interdependence mean? What does that look like in your marriage?

Memory Verse:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such, there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Lesson 10: Communication

Ice Breaker: On a scale of 1-10, how good would you say you are at communicating? Do you have any tips for those wanting to grow in this area?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. What is the difference between criticizing and complaining?
2. What does good communication look like?
3. What does responding to God, instead of reacting to your spouse mean? What would that look like in your marriage?

Memory Verse:

He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him. Proverbs 18:13

Lesson 11: Love Language

Ice Breaker: What is one thing that your spouse does that makes you feel loved/ respected?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. What are the 5 love languages?
2. What are the ways you express love to others?
3. What is something you can do better on your end to make your spouse feel more loved/ respected?

Memory Verse:

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

Lesson 12: Sex

Ice Breaker: What is the best advice you've heard about marriage?

Watch the video with your group.

Take the time to discuss these questions:

1. How does a healthy marriage provide protection against temptation?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 7:3-4 mean in reference to sex as an act of service?
3. What are things that can damage your sex life in your marriage?

Memory Verse:

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 1 Corinthians 6:12

Vladimir Savchuk leads the HungryGen movement and pastors a multi-cultural church with a clear-cut, focused vision to see the salvation of souls, healing, deliverance, and the raising up of young leaders. He leads annual “Raised to Deliver” conferences, which attracts thousands from all over the globe. He also leads two discipleship internships and one ministry school. He recently started an online school that offers free online courses. Pastor Vlad is a sought-after speaker at conferences and camps.

Vlad was born in Ukraine and raised in a Christian home. He immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 13 and became a youth pastor at the age of 16. Recently, he became the lead pastor of the HungryGen Church.

He is married to his beautiful wife, Lana, with whom he enjoys spending time and doing ministry together.

Marriage 101

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