



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD OVERVIEW

BYRON AND CARLA WEATHERSBEE

SESSION 1: THE PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

Help couples understand the biblical foundation for marriage. Marriage is an earthly picture of a divine institution. Thus, remind couples that marriage has the potential to glorify God and to provide the world an example of what God's home will be like. A biblical understanding of the reason for marriage will help establish a firm spiritual foundation upon which couples can build their lives and marriage.

SESSION 2: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Clarify, establish, and help couples understand the biblical functions of a husband and a wife within marriage. These biblical principles are designed by God to provide order in the family so that there is freedom and security as we carry out the responsibilities of life.

SESSION 3: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide a helpful overview of financial stewardship, budgeting, and money management. In order to experience true freedom, couples must gain a balanced perspective on how to deal effectively with financial responsibilities.

SESSION 4: EMOTIONAL INTIMACY

Challenge couples' thinking regarding emotional needs, intimacy, and oneness in marriage. We want to help them establish a strong commitment in marriage that lovingly fulfills these emotional needs. Love is based on a commitment of the will, not a passing feeling.

SESSION 5: SPIRITUAL INTIMACY

Encourage and challenge individuals to pursue godly character and discipline. We also hope to help couples relate on a spiritual basis as oneness occurs. As their relationship matures, spiritual oneness will be the foundation to emotional connection and physical passion.

SESSION 6: PHYSICAL INTIMACY

Educate couples regarding various aspects, myths, and expectations of sexual intimacy. "And they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24, NASB).

SESSION 7: COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Help couples understand the communication skills involved in managing conflict in your relationship. Communication is the lifeblood of every marriage. Since conflict is inevitable, a married couple needs ways to safely and respectfully work through issues. These principles are key to developing a healthy marriage.

SESSION 8: IN-LAWS AND FUTURE INTENTIONS

Help couples navigate their homes of origin together as they define healthy patterns for their new marriages. They will be challenged to think through, dream about, and pray for their future together as husband and wife.