

## **Sermon-Based Curriculum**

### **“Key Relationships in Marriage”**

#### **DISCUSS**

1. Opening Exercise: Take a piece of paper and draw a circle in the middle. Put your name(s) in the circle. Around that circle, draw smaller circles. In those smaller circles, write in the names of the people in your life who are directly connected to you -- children, extended family, in-laws, friends, co-workers, ministry partners. Place those who have the most time with you in closest proximity to your center circle and then work outward. Draw lines from your circle to each of the other circles. When you finish, take a moment and reflect on this visual image of your relationships. What stands out? Who gets the most of you? How do these relationships impact your marriage?
2. Read Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:6. What does it mean to cleave or hold fast together? What does it mean that God has joined a couple together? Who are all the humans who can drive a marriage apart?
3. In what ways have your in-laws been a blessing in your life? How could you bless them more?
4. How have children been a blessing in your life? According to your season of life, how do children stress you right now? What is one step you can make to invest in your marriage more than your children?
5. Read Proverbs 13:20 and 1 Corinthians 15:33. Do you have good friends as a couple? Do you prioritize your friendships? Are your friends a source of encouragement for your marriage and your faith? How could you invest well in your friends?
6. When you think about the relationships connected to your marriage (in-laws, children, friends), do you feel like you have good boundaries? Are there any areas you need to re-establish?
7. Think about your relationship with Christ as a couple. Tim gave four specific principles -- Read the Bible, pray together, share spiritual insights, and worship regularly together. In which of these four do you feel strongest individually and as a couple? In which of these do you need to put forth more effort? What is one practical step you could take?

#### **PRAY**

Take some time and pray for the different relationships in your life. List children, family, and friends, and the specific ways you can pray for them. Pray that God would help you love them well. If married, then pray for your marriage. Pray that God would help you prioritize that relationship. Commit to Christ the practical step you are taking to grow in your walk.