MARRIAGE
Session 2: Intimacy

A quick review: Relationships are a gift from God – they are a beautiful and prominent part of his Holy design. In fact, God himself is a relationship when you consider the three persons of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit.

We have a common thread between all of the marriage sessions during Summer Life. The common factor is relationship.

Communication – the establishing and maintaining of relationship thru submission, humility, and grace
Intimacy – the fully knowing someone in a relationship thru long-term steadfast love and interaction
Conflict/Resolution – the inevitable friction that comes from human limitation in relationships
Spiritual Growth – becoming more like Jesus - honing relationship skills through sanctification

Intimacy as it pertains to marriage is an enormous topic – but for our focus in this 1 hour session, we will try to stick to these topics:

- God gives us our model for intimacy.
- What is intimacy in marriage?
- The importance of sex for intimacy in marriage.

I. God’s Model for Intimacy

1 Peter 3:18 - Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Looking at Christ’s relationships, gives us insight into what true Intimacy is.

Jesus’ relationship to the Father:
John 14:9-11 – Jesus is IN the Father and the Father is in Him.

Jesus’ relationship to us:
John 15:4 – “Remain in me”
John 15:15 – “No longer called slaves...”

What is God’s goal for those who love Him? Eternal Life!
So what is Eternal Life? John 17:3, 1 John 5:20

What did Jesus pray for?
John 17: 20-23, 26

Q: Do you pray for that type of relationship with your spouse?
II. Intimacy in Marriage

Aside from our relationship with Christ, the marriage relationship should be our most intimate. Even though most people think of sex when they hear the word ‘intimacy’, that is only a small aspect of the reality.

**Intimacy** is emotional closeness…..sharing/knowing details that no one else knows – the tiny imperfections and quirks that make that person so memorable to us.

Inside jokes (friends)
Shared memories (family)
Bonding through sorrow or suffering (soldiers)

But, when it comes to intimacy, marriage is special. It’s the relationship that is meant to be a ‘Holy’ covenant (set apart) from our other relationships such as friendships and familial bonds. It should have everything we have with our other relationships, but so much more!

*An inside look at God’s intimacy to us.* Do you have pet-names or terms of endearment for each other?
Names that only you two know?
Look at Revelation 2:17 b -
“I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

What an intimate God we have!

Are you close to your spouse? How do you let them know that you love them?
Check out “The Five Love Languages” by Gary Chapman
*Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Physical Touch, Quality Time, Gifts*

(“Cheek-to-Cheek” – I feel loved when you.....)

What do we mean ‘intimacy that’s not about sex’?!

A husband and wife should be best friends. You should know your spouse better than anyone else on this planet! You have to strive to know exactly what makes them tick. Their best and their worst.

You have to make sure that your friendship with your spouse is the one you devote the most work to.

**Ladies**, if your husband likes fishing and he invites you – just go. Even if you hate it – just go once in a while! **Men**, if your lady likes romantic movies or a picnic on a blanket….isn’t it worth a couple of hours once in a while?? Remember, it’s shared experiences that build the base for you to eventually sharing a brain! Those old couples aren’t kidding!

There are so many ways to build intimacy (without sex!) (Examples)

(“Cheek-to-Cheek” – I wish someday we could...)

If you are thinking: “yeah, that sounds great, but what about the sex?!” Just remember that if these things are in place, building trust and romance, the sex will be better!
III. The importance of sex

Everything that we need for love, life, and passion are in God’s Word. See Song of Solomon for love thru sexual intimacy.
Paul – 1 Corinthians 7: Each should fulfill his/her marital duties to the other. They belong to each other, and should only abstain under mutual consent to dedicate themselves to prayer, and only for a time.

Myrrh, Aloes, and Cassia? Psalm 45 & Song of Sol 4

Sex is important to intimacy in our marriages –It’s a blessing from the LORD! How can we keep the right perspective and balance its priority?

Video: “The sex-starved marriage | Michele Weiner-Davis | TEDxCU”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep2MAx95m20

and…… IV. Protect what matters most

"Catch the foxes for us, 
  the little foxes
that spoil the vineyards,
  for our vineyards are in blossom." - Song of Solomon 2:15

Read, Proverbs 7:10-23

Look at verse 17 – How is he being lured? myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon

What are the consequences? v21-23