

A Covenant Keeping Relationship

Pastor Jon Las

Start Talking.

- What are some ways you and your spouse drive each other crazy? If you're single, what's a personal trait that can drive other people crazy?
- How have your relationships—whether romantic or platonic—changed over time?

Start Thinking.

- There are three different approaches to marriage: casual, contractual, and covenantal. Which kind of approach to marriage did you have?
- In Matthew 19:3-6, Jesus answered a controversial question on divorce. Read the passage and explain why Jesus' answered the question the way He did. What does His answer teach us about God's view of marriage?
- We learned that covenants are sealed by blood. Read the following: Genesis 17:10-14 (The Covenant of Circumcision), Genesis 15:9-21 (The Covenant of Pieces), Leviticus 16:18-19 (The Covenant of Purification), Luke 22:20 (The Covenant of our Salvation). Marriage is a covenant sealed by blood. What do you remember about Pastor's teaching and description from the Bible and history about this truth?
- Pastor said, "*The idea behind the ancient practice is, the person you shed your blood for should be someone you want to be in covenant with for life. You don't shed blood for just anyone.*" This is in relation to the teaching about the Marriage Covenant sealed by blood. How do you think did our current culture lose its standards in the area of virginity, marriage and life-long covenant?
- An excerpt from Pastor's sermon: "*The covenant you enter in marriage is for life, and that is why you don't enter into it carelessly, unadvisedly, lightly, or merely to satisfy carnal lusts and appetites, like brute beasts that have no understanding; but marriage should be approached reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God; duly considering the causes for which marriage was ordained.*" What do you think is the biggest reason why people marry? What do you think is the biggest reason for the break down of marriages?
- If you're married, what was your reason for getting married?
If you're not married, how can you prepare yourself for a God-honoring marriage?
How should this kind of preparation for marriage change the way you view dating?
- Sex is a good thing, a gift from God to married couples. But in Ephesians 5:3, the Bible clearly teaches that sex outside of marriage is not God's will, and therefore, sinful. What is the big deal with sex, why is the Bible so strong in this teaching to keep sex within marriage?
- Your wholeness matters to God, and the devil hates it. The devil's lies by making us believe that the more people we have sex with the better person we become. But we learned that the more sexual partners we have, the more we lose a part of ourselves to them, leading to sexual brokenness. How can we regain our wholeness? 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.
- "God wants you to be happy," Pastor said in relation to this series. How did he explain the correlation between happiness and holiness? How can you grow in your holiness, which leads to happiness?

Start Applying.

- If you have a past that involves a broken covenant (divorce, separation, etc), remember what Pastor said, "In Christ, you are forgiven and have a new beginning." If you need healing from broken covenants, ask your DG to pray for you and allow the Spirit to speak His forgiveness and healing over you.
- Couples, how can you strengthen your covenant bond? Name some practical ways to make you keep covenant.
- Singles, what are some changes that you need to make in viewpoint and in lifestyle so that you can better prepare for a life-long covenant of marriage?

Start praying.

- Start praying. Be bold and pray with power. Make a commitment to be covenant-keeping.
- Keep meeting with your prayer/accountability partner.