

**Introduction: The primary role of a backup singer**

- When you change marriage, you change the Church.
  
- When you change the Church, you change the community.
  
- When you change the community, you change the culture.

**Your marriage affects all parts of your life, including your faith and your parenting.**

At its core, marriage is really a \_\_\_\_\_ issue.

## Backup Singers to the Duet of Marriage

Teacher: Doug Fields

### How to become a backup singer to marriage:

1. The first song of marriage – Marriage needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ by all.

*<sup>1</sup> Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. <sup>4</sup> Marriage should be honored by all...*

Hebrews 13:1-4a

Honor – means to esteem as highly \_\_\_\_\_.

The most significant contributor to marriages that last is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The second song of marriage – Marriage needs to be \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>7</sup> Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.*

*<sup>9</sup> Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days.*

Ecclesiastes 9:7,9a

One practical tip is to \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

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### Five benefits of dating your spouse:

1. Dating keeps lines of communication open.
2. Dating allows couples to shatter routines and get out of a rut.
3. Dating models commitment to your marriage and to your children.
4. Dating relieves stress.
5. Dating rediscovers passion and sparks sexual intimacy.

### 3. The third song of marriage – Marriage needs to be \_\_\_\_\_.

*That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is **united** to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

Genesis 2:24

*<sup>4</sup>“Haven’t you read,” He replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his wife, and the **two will become one flesh**’? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”*

Matthew 19:4-6

*<sup>6</sup>“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup> ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the **two will become one flesh.**’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”*

Mark 10:6-9

One of the greatest gifts you can give your children is a \_\_\_\_\_ marriage.

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### **Summary:**

Honor marriage – Lift up and talk highly about marriage.

Enjoy marriage – Model the enjoyment of marriage (date your spouse).

Prioritize marriage – Model a marriage-centric home vs a kid-centric home.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some negative comments you have heard about marriage that have shaped the way you think about marriage? How can you intentionally change these negative thoughts to marriage-honoring thoughts?
2. What are some practical steps you can take to enjoy your marriage more?
3. If you are currently not prioritizing your marriage, what changes will you make?