Preface & Overview

Saturday, February 14, 2026 3:31 PM



Welcome family to Marriage Enrichment!

What a privilege it is to gather with hearts set on seeking the Lord for the strengthening of our marriages. The covenants we share with our spouses are worthy of intentional investment. As your Pastors and leaders in this house, our prayer is that God would honor the time you sow here and cause your families to flourish in ways greater than ever before.

We are beginning a journey that will last for a total of 7 weeks starting with our preparatory time tonight, followed by 6 weeks of teaching.

Obviously marriage enrichment is meant to be done one on one with your pastors and/or elders. We want to know you! Nothing can replace the experience of sitting down together to share your lives with your leaders to know them and be known by them. Our intention is not to replace that time but rather to provide a resource that stays true to the original marriage enrichment teachings that were handed down by Pastor Eric decades ago that have produced Godly fruit in countless lives. Over the years there have been many iterations of teachings and many wonderful things have come out of those, however our time here during

the 6 weeks that follow tonight will be devoted to preserving and passing down those teachings to you.

With that being said, the normal experience when going through Marriage Enrichment with a pastoral or Elder couple would be a preparatory meal that we would have with you where we set proper expectations about the upcoming weeks. So tonight, that's what we are going to do. We provided some snacks and drinks for you guys along with some good company and good music so that we could have a preparatory night together, Amen?

Let's pray before we get into our scriptures!

(PRAY)

Let's walk through some key scriptures that will help set the focus for our time together for the next 7 weeks.

- **Matthew 19:4–6 (NIV 1984):**
  4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'
  5 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'?
  6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

In Matthew 19:4–6, Jesus takes us back to the beginning to recover God's original design for marriage. He reminds us that the Creator made them male and female and declared that the two would become one flesh. This is the appropriate view of marriage—not merely a legal arrangement or a physical union, but the continuing miracle of two lives being joined by God into one.

This oneness is far deeper than intimacy on a physical level; it is the intertwining of thoughts, desires, convictions, decisions, and purpose. <u>Marriage was the first gift God gave to man to help fulfill His calling, and it was designed, crafted, and established by Him to be a blessing.</u>

The focus, then, is not simply avoiding wrongdoing, but intentionally **moving toward unity**—learning to think, act, and live as one in a way that reflects God's design. As we move through these teachings, we will see this theme unfold again and again:

You've often heard the phrase, "What God has joined together, let no man separate." And while that remains true, we want to move beyond simply avoiding

separation. The heart of this teaching is not merely staying together, but growing together. What God joins together, He intends to cultivate, strengthen, and cause to flourish in genuine oneness. His design is not survival, but unity—an ever-deepening life shared as one.

Let's move on to our next scripture:

- **Matthew 19:11–12 (NIV 1984):**
  11 Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.
  12 For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

Everyone must recognize that there are only 2 states that men and women should be in: celibate or marriage, these are the only options in God's eyes. In Matthew 19:11–12, Jesus presents the appropriate view of celibacy as a gift—not a deficiency. Notice him using language like "to whom it has been given" and "the one who can accept this should accept it". He makes it clear that this calling is not for everyone, yet for those who receive it, it is a grace from God in which they actively participate. In the same way that marriage is a blessing, so also is celibacy. Both states—married and single—are gifts endowed by God, **each carrying unique purpose and opportunity for devotion**. Neither is superior; both are sacred.

The married person is not called to live as though single, and the single person is not to pattern their life as though married. Instead, each is to embrace fully the gift God has entrusted to them and steward it faithfully.

For those who have married, which should be everyone in the room, consider this next passage:

- **Hebrews 13:4 (NIV 1984):**
  4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

For those who are married, hear the emphasis of Hebrews 13:4 clearly: marriage is to be honored, and the marriage bed kept pure. The starting point is this—**it is pure**. God designed it, declared it good, and gave it as a gift. Intimacy within marriage is not something to approach with suspicion or negativity, but with gratitude and confidence. It is the holy intertwining of two lives becoming one, a blessing meant to strengthen, unite, and help fulfill your calling.

Our responsibility is not to create purity but to guard and celebrate the purity God has already established. When we hold marriage in honor and embrace it as the good gift it is, we protect its beauty and refuse to let the covenant be diminished.

It should encourage you to remember that God designed marriage for both husband and wife to flourish. It is a gift, intentionally crafted by Him, and the intertwining of body, mind, and soul within that covenant is something beautiful and worthy of honor in the sight of all.

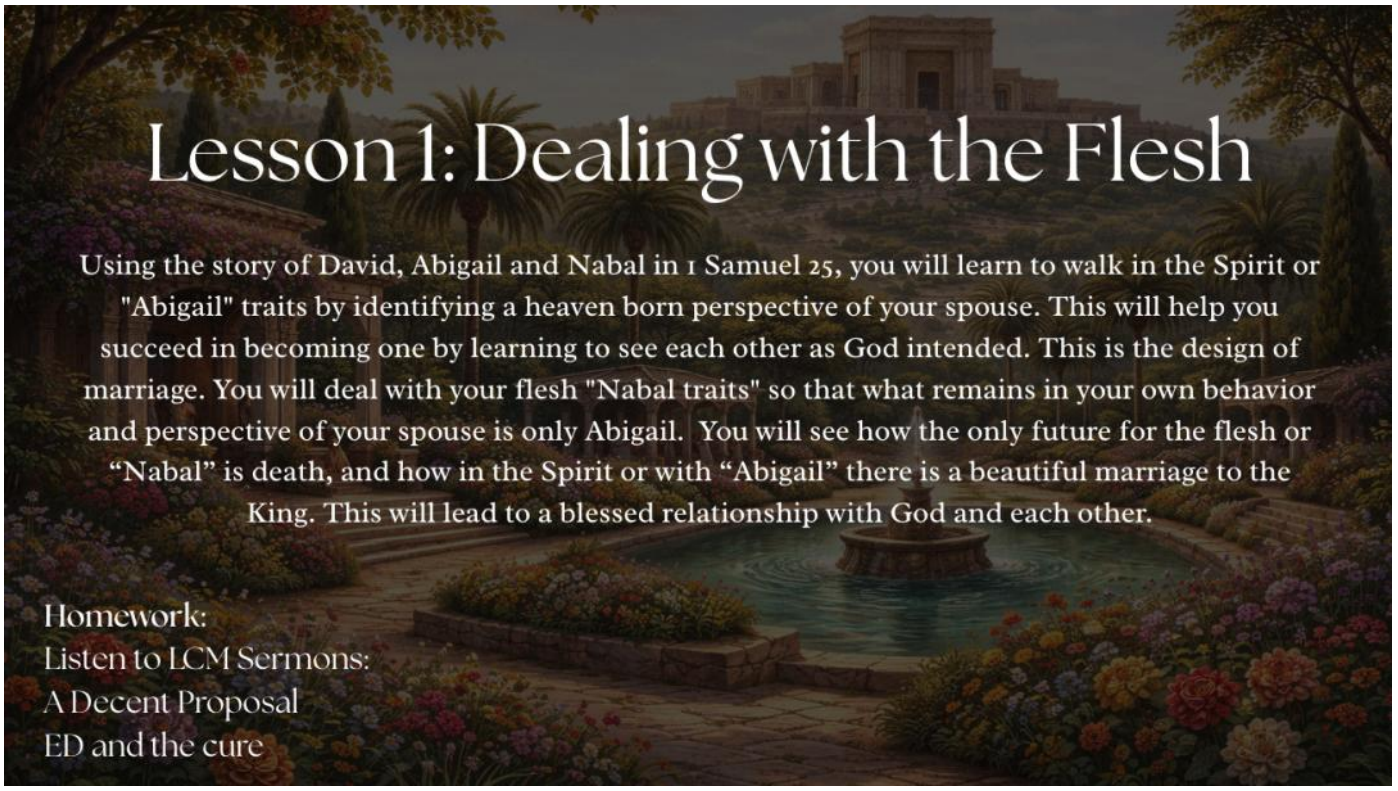
Lesson 1: Dealing with the Flesh

Using the story of David, Abigail and Nabal in 1 Samuel 25, you will learn to walk in the Spirit or "Abigail" traits by identifying a heaven born perspective of your spouse. This will help you succeed in becoming one by learning to see each other as God intended. This is the design of marriage. You will *deal* with your flesh "Nabal traits" so that what remains in your own behavior and perspective of your spouse is only Abigail. You will see how the only future for the flesh or “Nabal” is death, and how in the Spirit or with “Abigail” there is a beautiful marriage to the King. This will lead to a blessed relationship with God and each other.

<u>Homework</u>:

Listen to LCM Sermons:

- A Decent Proposal
- ED and the cure



Lesson 2: Marriage Symbolism

The Bible presents God as a perfect Groom, and Israel is His bride. This lesson takes this example and teaches you the original design of how a Groom and Bride interact with each other! We learn that our relationship is a partnership for the express purpose of reflecting the character of God to the world. You will learn that the function of a marriage is beautiful, redemptive, full of trust and equal levels of devotion to Holiness.

Homework:

Listen to LCM Sermons:

- Colt 45 Peacemaker
- After-nun Delight

Begin Developing Love Language:

- Husband to use Proverbs 31 to write his own version to praise his wife for her Godly deeds that display character
- Wife to use Song of Songs 5 to write her own version to praise her husbands physical characterizes while coupling it with spiritual character.



Lesson 3: Flow of Shalom

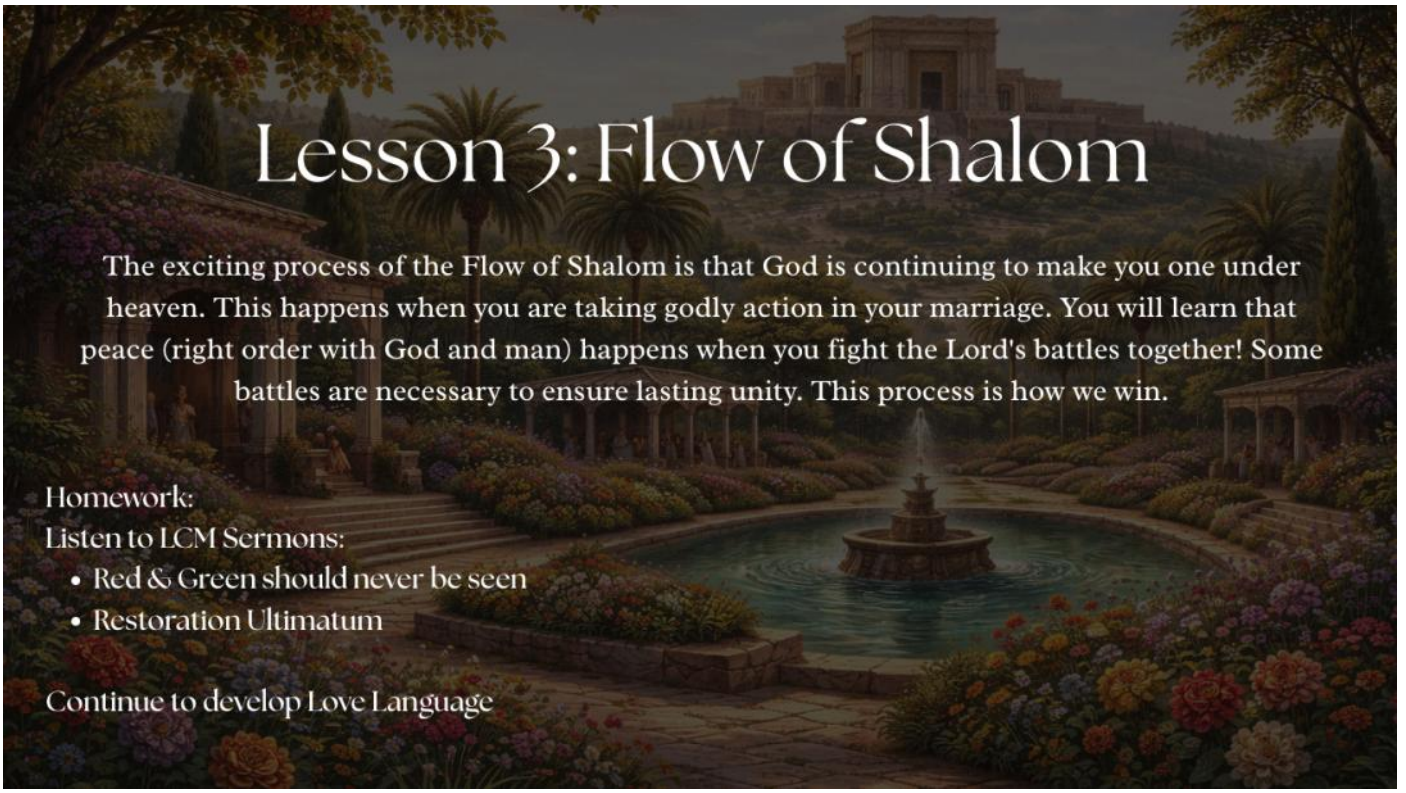
The exciting process of the Flow of Shalom is that God is continuing to make you one under heaven. This happens when you are taking godly action in your marriage. You will learn that peace (right order with God and man) happens when you fight the Lord's battles together! Some battles are necessary to ensure lasting unity. This process is how we win.

Homework**:**

Listen to LCM Sermons:

- Red & Green should never be seen
- Restoration Ultimatum

Continue to develop Love Language



Lesson 4: Conflict Resolution

This lesson will answer the question: *How do we find the mind of the Lord together?* This lesson addresses proper decision making while maintaining unity when Shalom is already present. All married couples will face difficult decisions and through the use of Psalm 25 and 4 you will learn to appropriately discuss and pray through various situations guided by Scripture and how to table an issue properly to seek the Lord further as one.

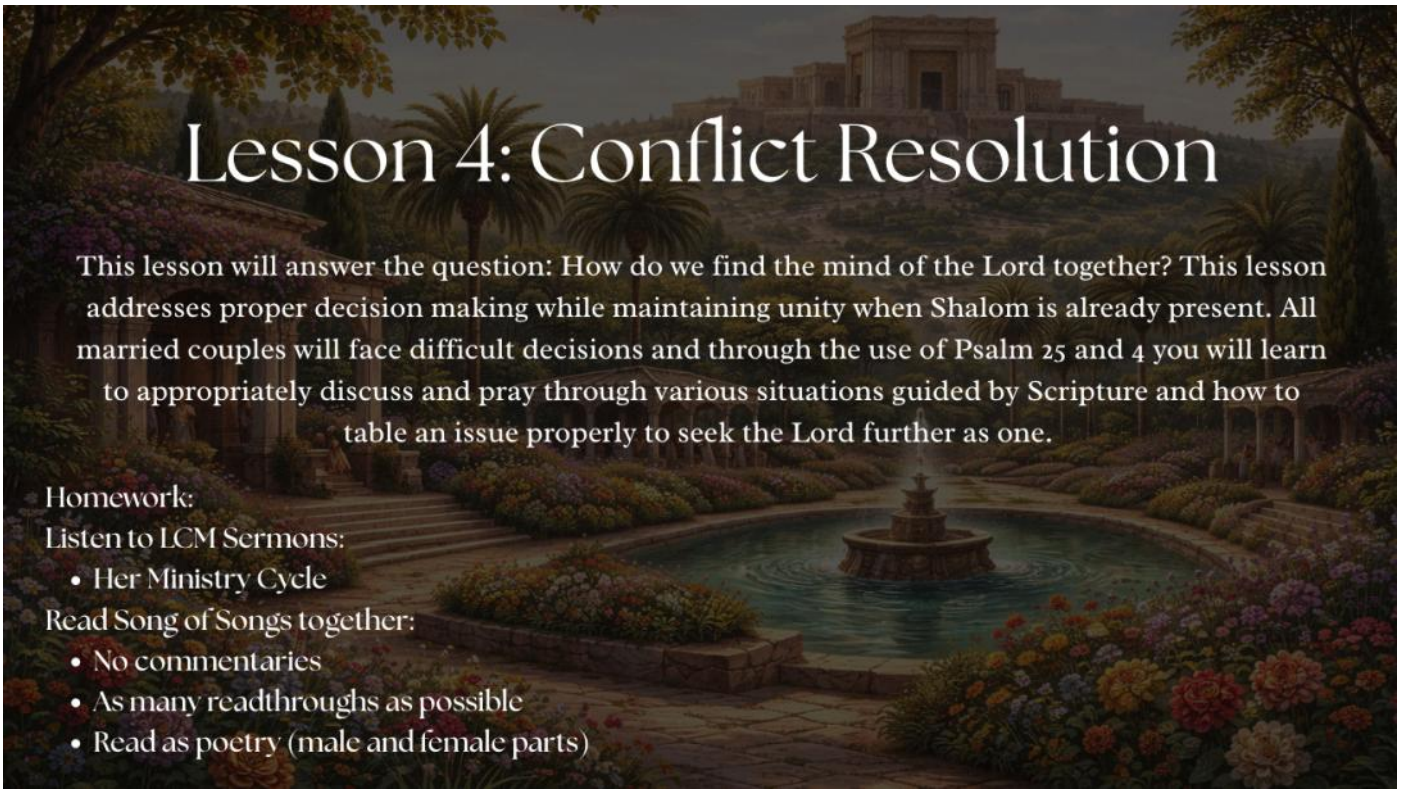
<u>Homework</u>:

Listen to LCM Sermons:

- Her Ministry Cycle

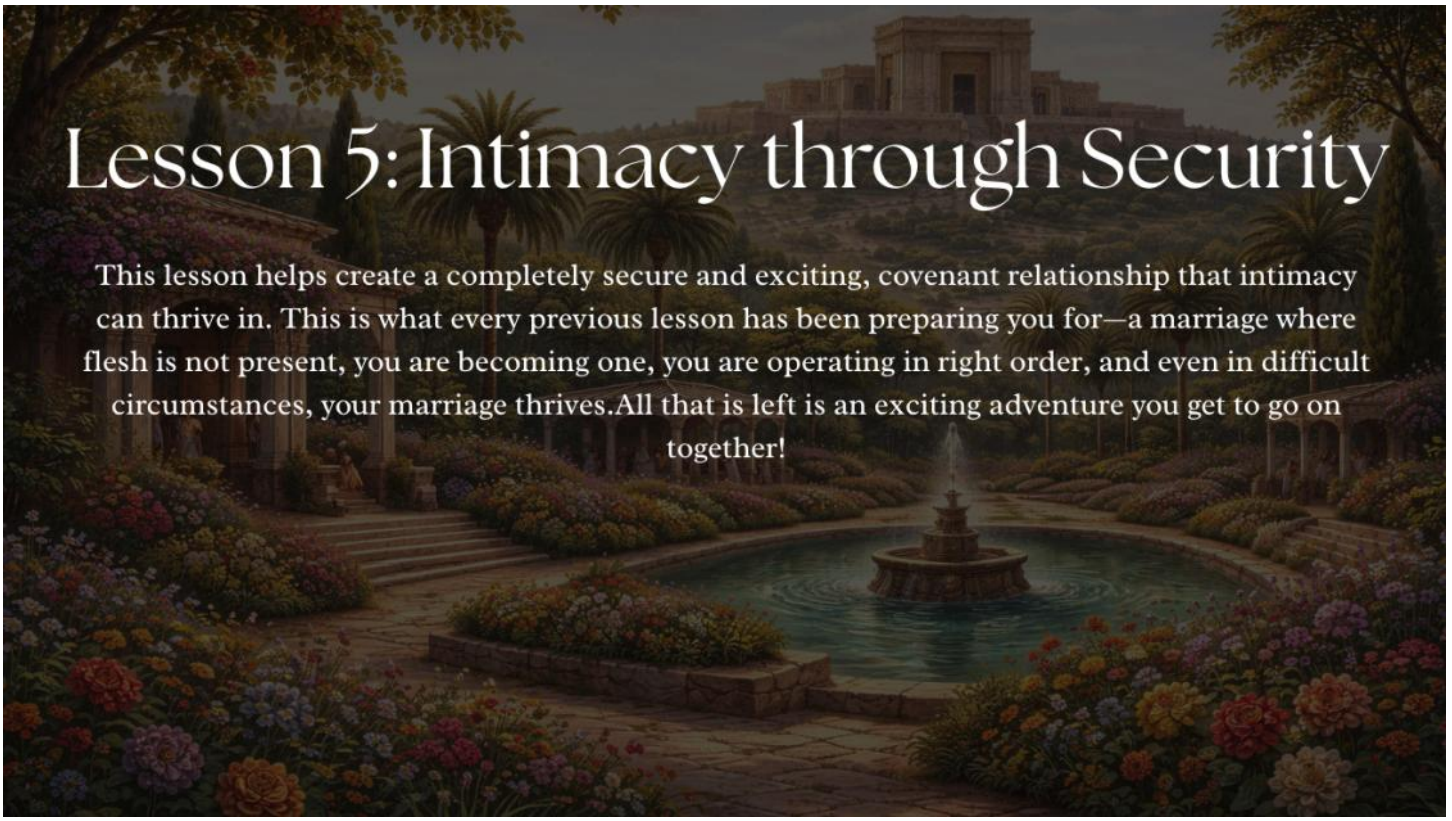
Read Song of Songs together:

- No commentaries
- As many readthroughs as possible
- Read as poetry (male and female parts)



Lesson 5: Intimacy through Security

This lesson helps create a completely secure and exciting, covenant relationship that intimacy can thrive in. This is what every previous lesson has been preparing you for—a marriage where flesh is not present, you are becoming one, you are operating in right order, and even in difficult circumstances, your marriage thrives. All that is left is an exciting adventure you get to go on together!



Appendix: Your Covenant

In the 6th lesson we will explore what the scripture has to say about developing and living with vision for your family. Now that you are enjoying the fruit of righteous covenant living, how do we follow the faith of Abraham and the example of Jesus. We learn that obedience brings further clarity and how to begin developing your family's mezuzah.



Requirements before lesson 1:

- Listen to “Married to a Fool” and “Limp Leadership and Flaccid Marriages” and take notes of what impacted you in each
- Get a notebook dedicated solely to this material for ALL notes from lessons and homework
- Show up with index cards with your Abigail and Nabal traits written down on them
- Come with new index cards as well

Note:

- You don’t need to have perfected these things by the time you get married, but the CONTINUAL practice of them will secure your marriage.

Expectations:

- Do all your homework diligently (complete it, or you will be sent home)

Final Notes:

- These teachings not only save marriages, but also cause fruitful ministry to come from it!
- Dealing with the flesh is the key to every other lesson.

High-level overview of the coming weeks, focusing on how each week builds on the others



Lessons:
Understanding each week flows into the next
If you jump straight to week 5, this will not work. If you jump straight to week 3 you will have a dictator.
Yes, it is appropriate to talk about each week.
HW is really important bc you can't cover everything
It is telling me where they are at. What they got out of the teaching

Homework before 1st session:

1. ***Married to a Fool***
2. ***Limp Leadership and Flaccid Marriages***
3. Bring 2 3x5 index cards, and a dedicated notebook,

4. Have 5 Abigail and 5 Nabal traits identified for yourself
   - This should be done independently from one another after reading *1 Sam 25*

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