

## THE OUTLINE

### | ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH IS TO “HELP MARRIAGES SUCCEED”

- Does your congregation and the community view your church as a place to help marriages succeed?
- If you don't have much of a marriage ministry, start small but do something
- Divorce happens: Recognize it
- Your church can help the “1% Initiative”
- Prevention is easier than intervention
- Find role models who have authentic marriages

### | MARRIAGE OUTREACH

- Date nights
- Go into the community
- Military
- First Responders

## **WHAT DOES A HEALTHY MARRIAGE MINISTRY LOOK LIKE?**

- Trained marriage mentors
- The church as a marriage resource center
  - Marriage Crisis Help
  - Marriage Counselors
  - Conferences
  - Seminars
  - Video-based training
  - Books, blogs, online resources, workbooks
  - Small group opportunities

## **PROVIDE MARRIAGE MINISTRY PROGRAMMING**

- MarriedPeople.Org
  - Large Events
  - Small Group
  - Individual

- Think about each phase

- Sex education and relationships for teens and pre-teens
- How to know if you are in love (is anyone helping couples who are seriously dating?)
- Getting Ready for Marriage (31% better chance that they will stay married)
- First Few Years of Marriage: Building the foundation
- Refreshing Your Marriage: Fine tuning marriages
- Empty Nest and Doing Life with Your Adult Children

- Topics

- Communication and Conflict
- Priorities
- Spiritual Intimacy
- Emotional Intimacy
- Sex and Romance
- Finances
- In-laws
- Blended Family and Exes
- Domestic Violence
- Raising Children
- Crisis: Adultery, Abuse, Addictions
- Play and Fun
- Fight Fair
- Celebrating Differences
- Remarriage



## PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. A thriving marriage ministry is important for any church, but it's also a great outreach to couples who need help. How can marriage ministry help members of your church as well as becoming an outreach to your community?
2. After watching this session, what area of marriage ministry could your church implement that is not yet active?
3. Jim talked about the phases of reaching out to build marriages. He started with basic sex and relational education for kids all the way to the empty nest. What phases does your church do best? What phases need some attention?
4. Jim gave you several topics that a church could deal with in marriage ministry. What other topics could you add to the list?
5. After watching this session, is there anything you could personally contribute to the health of marriage ministry in your church?