Marriage and Family

Diocese-Based Leadership Training Program
Mennonite Churches of East Africa (KMC/KMT)

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Lesson 1. God's Plan for Marriage

Read Genesis 1 and 2

*So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* Genesis 1:27

1. **God created man and woman in God’s image.** Man and woman together express more completely the image of God, than either of them alone. God is love, and love is relationship. Marriage is a relationship of unity and love between husband and wife (Genesis 2:24).
   - Who was created in God's image? The man? The woman? Both?
   - How does marriage reflect the image of God?

2. **A suitable helper and partner for Adam.** Adam named the animals and each one was found to have a partner, but “no suitable partner was found” for Adam. God said, “It is not good that man should be alone.” Adam needed a partner for fellowship and to share his life. God created woman and brought her to man (Genesis 2:18-22).
   - What did Adam say when he saw the partner God made for him? (Genesis 2:23).
   - What words describe the relationship between Adam and Eve? (Genesis 2:24-25).

3. **God blessed them both and gave them both the same instructions,** “Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the creation” (Genesis 1:28). The relationship between Adam and Eve included God, the Giver of Life and Blessing. This is God’s perfect plan for marriage. And God said, "It is very good!" (Genesis 1:31). Adam and Eve were made for each other, to cling to each other; to become one flesh, naked and without shame (Genesis 2:24-25). The creation of man and woman was according to God’s will and pleasure (Revelation 4:11).

4. **Adam and Eve disobeyed God and God’s perfect plan was broken.** When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, their perfect relationship with God and with each other was broken. They felt shame and fear (Genesis 3:7-10) and began to accuse each other for their disobedience (Genesis 3:12-13).
   - How did sin affect the relationship with God? Between Adam and Eve?
   - How did sin affect the rest of creation? (Genesis 3:17).
   - How are we affected by Adam and Eve’s sin? (read Romans 5:18-19)

For discussion:

1. How do we as people reflect God’s image?
2. How do men and women each express the image of God differently?
3. Read Revelation 4:11. What was the purpose of God in creating humans?
4. Explain the phrase “become one flesh,” according to verses 24-25? Explain “leaving,” “united,” and “naked without shame.”
5. Do you think Adam and Eve enjoyed each other’s presence? Explain your answer.
6. What other questions do you want to ask about God’s purpose for marriage?
Lesson 2. Foundations for a Healthy Marriage

If God does not build the house, we build in vain.
If God doesn't guard the house we guard it in vain. Psalms 127:1

1. God’s purpose for marriage. In order that our marriages are well-built and secure, we need the wisdom and leading of God concerning the purpose of marriage and how to build a strong foundation for our marriage. A strong foundation for a healthy marriage begins with understanding God’s perfect plan, as it was before the man and woman sinned. It is a 3-fold relationship that includes God, husband, and wife. The relationship between husband and wife is stronger when God is in the marriage.

Adam and Eve’s sin brought shame (7); separation from God (8); fear (10); accusing (12); pain in childbirth and desire to control each other (16); and curse on the ground (17).

2. Four pillars of a healthy marriage – from Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18
Each of these pillars is weakened by our disobedience to God. But each pillar is important to a healthy marriage.

1) The image of God (God created man in his own image, male and female. 1:27)
   - God’s plan: Marriage is an example of God’s love, faithfulness, and unity.
   - Sin: damaged God’s image – spirit, mind, will, and body (death).

2) To build a healthy family and society (Be fruitful and increase in number. 1:28)
   - God’s plan: Children are a source of joy and serving.
   - Sin: brought pain in childbirth; Cain and Abel in conflict (Genesis 4:8).

3) To expand God’s rule (Fill the earth and subdue it. 1:28)
   - God’s plan: Marriage brings wholeness through faith and obedience
   - Sin: the ground is cursed; Adam and Eve are removed from Eden.

4) Healthy husband-wife relationship (It is not good for the man to be alone. 2:18)
   - God’s plan: Marriage is built on faithfulness between husband and wife.
   - Sin: Adam and Eve blame each other, and desire to control each other.

3. Redemption is rebuilding the broken pillars
   - God’s image is restored, spirit, soul, and body. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
   - The family becomes a place of peace, training and instruction. Ephesians 6:4
   - God’s kingdom brings righteousness, peace, and joy. Romans 14:17
   - Marriage is strengthened by faithfulness, openness, truth. Ephesians 4:24-25

The curse on the ground, Adam and Eve’s pain, and man ruling the woman are not God’s judgement. God is the Source of Life and Blessing, and the result of being separated from the Source of Life is death and pain. Marriage should be an example of redemption to restore God’s plan for blessing.

For discussion:

1. When was marriage first established? What is marriage and the purposes of marriage?
   Genesis 2:24-25; 4:1

2. In your marriage or in others you have seen, what are some things that build the relationship? What are some things that weaken the relationship?

3. How is marriage an example of the Holy Trinity?

4. When did the man begin to rule over woman? Was it part of God’s perfect plan?

5. Can we apply Genesis 2:24 in African culture, “a man will leave his father and mother, and be united to his wife”?

6. Describe your understanding of a healthy relationship between husband and wife.
Lesson 3. Marriage is Covenant: Reflects Christ's Love for the Church

For your Maker is your husband. Isaiah 54:5

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. Ephesians 5:25

1. The covenant. In the Old Testament, God expressed his commitment to his people through covenants. Describe the covenant in each of the following scriptures:
   - Genesis 9:8-11
   - Genesis 17:1-8

A covenant is stronger than a contract.
   - A covenant is based on relationship, and its main purpose is a strong relationship.
   - A contract is an agreement, and its main purpose is the requirements of the agreement.

2. Christ and the church. The writers of the Bible used marriage to explain the relationship between God and his people in the Old Testament, and between Christ and the Church in the New Testament. As we understand God's loving care for Israel and for the church, we are helped to understand what his will is for marriage. Our experience of human marriage also helps us to understand our relationship with God. Notice how the following scriptures describe marriage.
   - John 3:16. What motivated God to give his son to save the world?
   - John 13:34. What new commandment did Jesus give his disciples?
   - John 15:12-13. What did Jesus tell his disciples is the greatest sign of love?
   - 1 Peter 2:9-10. As God’s chosen people, what has God called us to do? (9).

3. Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman, a relationship of love and commitment to each other. Jesus is our example of love, humility and service. The following verses describe Jesus’ example that we are called to follow.
   - Philippians 2:1-8. What character qualities of Jesus are listed in these verses.
   - Ephesians 5:1-2. In these verses, what does it mean to imitate Christ?
   - Ephesians 5:21. What does it mean to submit to each other?
   - Ephesians 5:24. How does the church submit to Christ? What does it mean for wives to submit to their husbands?
   - Ephesians 5:25-27. In these verses, how did Christ show his love for the church?

As members of the body of Christ, we are committed to the church, to honor, love, respect, and serve each other in humility.

As marriage partners we are called to honor our marriage, with love, respect, humility and service to each other and to God.

For discussion:

1. Some people view marriage as an agreement, or a contract between two people. How is that different from a covenant? Can a covenant relationship be broken?
2. How is Christ’s love for the church an example for husbands to love their wives?
3. What is the difference between a Christian marriage and a traditional marriage? Does God look at those marriages differently?
4. What is the benefit of having a Christian marriage?
Lesson 4. Building Intimacy and Commitment In Marriage

1. **Marriage is a covenant** between two people, a pledge of commitment to each other for as long as they live. Seeing marriage as covenant helps us to value the relationship between us and to keep it healthy. We avoid selfish choices, and see our spouse as a valuable gift from God, as a prized treasure to be guarded (1 Peter 3:7).

   - God made us to need and desire intimacy. Many people understand intimacy only as sexual, or physical. But the desire for intimacy cannot be truly be satisfied by a relationship that is mainly physical. Sexual intimacy should be based on intimacy of spirit and soul.

   - There are different levels of intimacy in different relationships, such as parent and child, husband and wife, friends and colleagues, including both men and women. In each relationship there are appropriate and inappropriate behaviors, or boundaries. For example, the way we relate to a friend is different from the way we relate to our spouse, or to our children.

2. **True intimacy is being close to and familiar with another person, it is to know and understand a person deeply.** Intimacy begins as friendship, spending time together. It is finding value in the person you are getting to know and in being able to share openly your thoughts, dreams and fears. When you are able to trust the other person without fear of rejection, you are willing to share and carry each other's joy and pain, and you begin to develop the same values for life. Intimacy is a process of growing together and to enjoy being with each other. It means leaving parents and family as our primary relationship, and building a new relationship with our husband or wife (read Genesis 2:24). It means becoming one with each other, in spirit, soul, and body.

3. **Sexual intimacy** is a blessing from God, when it is within the covenant of marriage. It is part of God’s perfect plan for humankind, given before sin entered the world. God’s command to “be fruitful and multiply” included enjoying sexual intimacy.

   - **Read Proverbs 5:18-20; Song of Solomon 4:10; Hebrews 13:4.** How do these verses describe the beauty of sexual intimacy?
   - **Read 1 Corinthians 6:13b-20; 7:1-5.** What do these verses teach about the right and wrong uses of sexuality?

   - Some people believe that the fruit Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Eden was sexual intimacy. But the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is a symbol of following their own desires and trusting their own wisdom (good for food, pleasing to the eye, desirable for gaining wisdom. Genesis 3:6).

   - Sexual intimacy in marriage is a blessing from God, intended for our enjoyment and to have children. Sexual intimacy outside of marriage brings shame and fear.

For discussion:

1. Read Hebrews 13:4. Why is marriage not “honored” as it once was? Why is sexuality considered to be dishonorable, rather than blameless and without shame?
2. What are appropriate behaviors (boundaries) for the different levels of intimacy? How do we decide appropriate behavior?
3. Can a Christian become truly one in spirit with one who does not honor God?
4. Discuss some things that are barriers to developing true intimacy.
Lesson 5. Roles within Christian Marriage

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

1. **God created man in his image**, as male and female. Just as men and women are different physically, they also have different strengths and character. Women give birth, are generally nurturing, caring, show hospitality and mercy, and are relationship-oriented. Men generally show qualities of strength, leadership, decision-making, building and strengthening, and are task-oriented. While these qualities are generally true for either men or women, they are often shared. All these qualities are important for a healthy family, community and church.

Man and woman were created equal in status and responsibility. In many other cultures, women are considered lower than man. Jesus began to break tradition by showing respect for women. Paul said that in Christ, there is neither male nor female (Galatians 3:28). Through redemption, God seeks to restore the original plan for equality.

2. From creation, God intends that men and women work together to complete each other. But because of sin, people are sometimes in conflict and try to rule each other, but Jesus calls us to serve each other (Matthew 20:25-28). Husbands and wives are called to submit to each other in humility (Ephesians 5:21).

God created Eve to be a helper suitable for Adam (Genesis 2:18). The Hebrew word helper is also used for God our Helper, our Strength (e.g. Psalm 70:5; 121:2). According to this, the helper is not a servant with less authority, but one who comes alongside to add strength in times of ministry or difficulty. Eve was created to work beside Adam as his equal, and to complete him.

3. In a healthy marriage, the husband and wife serve each other and their family according to their strengths. Roles in marriage may be determined by physical ability, by tasks to be performed, by cultural norms, by religious rules and guidelines, or by individual preferences.

   - 1 Timothy 5:8. What role of the Christian believer is mentioned in this verse?
   - 1 Timothy 5:10, 14. What kind of life was expected of Christian women?
   - Deuteronomy 6:6-8. What did God command parents?
   - 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12. How should a Christian father relate to his children?

For discussion:

1. How does traditional African culture understand the roles for men and women?
2. How does cultural or traditional teaching affect the roles that we assume? Give some examples of roles that are not appropriate for women in your culture. Give examples of roles that are not appropriate for men in your culture.
3. Make a list of various roles within the home. Which of these roles should be shared by both partners? Which can only be done by one or the other?
4. Proverbs 31:10-31. What roles for a woman are suggested in this passage?
5. Romans 12:4-8. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts for ministry to the church. Do you think some of these gifts are only for men? Are some only for women?
6. How does the gospel help us decide proper roles in a marriage?
Lesson 6. Responsibility in Marriage

1. **Expectations.** Both Christian teaching and cultural tradition understand marriage to be a commitment between two people that is witnessed by the community. Marriage creates a new relationship between two people, a new household, and a new family group with the birth of children. The family, the community, and the church often show their support to the marriage through blessings, prayers, dowry and gifts. This public witness by the church or through traditional customs affirms the marriage for all. When two people commit to each other in marriage, the community expects them to be responsible to nurture their marriage.

   - Name some of the expectations that are normal when two people marry (for example, they share the same house, they plan a family, etc.).
   - **Genesis 2:24-25.** What responsibilities did Adam accept when he received Eve?
   - **1 Corinthians 7:2-5.** These verses are Paul’s teaching in the early Christian church to husbands and wives about sexual responsibility. Explain Paul’s teaching.
   - **1 Corinthians 6:13-20; Hebrews 13:4.** What does the New Testament say about sexual relations outside of marriage?

2. **Building trust.** The marriage relationship is a living thing; if it is not fed and cared for, it will grow weak and die. If it is well fed and cared for, it will grow strong and produce fruit. One of the most important things for a healthy marriage is to build trust, to learn to trust each other. Trust is built by being faithful, sharing openly with your spouse, and being truthful in every way.

   - **Ephesians 4:15.** What does this verse say is one way to build trust?
   - **Romans 13:8.** What responsibility does this verse mention?

For discussion:

1. How are responsibilities for married couples different in different communities or cultures?
2. How does a Christian believer decide which expectations to follow when living in a traditional culture? For example, dowry, polygamy, faithfulness to one wife, sharing money, etc.
3. Do the husband and wife each have their own different responsibilities, or can some responsibilities be shared equally? (for example, cooking, gardening, child care, earning money, etc.)
4. In some cultural groups sexual purity is the responsibility only of the woman. What is wrong with this position?
5. How do sexual relations outside of marriage destroy the marriage?
6. **1 Timothy 5:8.** Providing for the family and caring for them is a basic responsibility for married couples. How does one decide between the need to provide and care for the family, and the desire to have many children?
7. What are some things you can do to build trust in your marriage?
Lesson 7. Children – God's Blessing in the Home

“In Africa, children are the mark of a healthy marriage.”
Gladys Mwiti, Christian Counseling

1. **Children are a blessing from God.** God’s first command to Adam and Eve was to “be fruitful and increase in number” (Genesis 1:28). Each child that is born is a gift from God, a sign of God’s favor. For some, having many children is a way of helping to produce food for the family. Sometimes children are given names of their ancestors, in order to carry on the family line. In some groups, not giving birth is a reason for the husband to marry another wife.
   - **Read Psalms 127 and 128.** Children are a blessing within the home. What words or phrases say that children are a sign of blessing?

2. **Responsibilities of parents for the welfare of children.** What are the responsibilities found in each of these passages?
   - Proverbs 22:6
   - Proverbs 29:17
   - Deuteronomy 6:6-9
   - Ephesians 6:4

   The home should be a place of nurture, a place to learn faith, values and conduct through parents’ example and teaching (2 Timothy 1:5). Home is not only the building we live in, it is where the family shares comfort, rest, peace and joy in each other. Parents who honor God provide stability and their children are seen as a blessing to the family and to others.
   - **Ephesians 6:1-3.** What two commandments are given to children?

**Infertility** is often a physical problem which challenges a marriage. The problem may be with either the husband or wife and sometimes can be cured by medical treatment.

Infertility is not the result of a curse. In the Bible, women who had no child sometimes later had a child who had a special place in God’s work (e.g. Isaac, Samuel, John the Baptist). These mothers (Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth) were faithful to God in spite of their barrenness, and God blessed them.

God uses people who serve faithfully in spite of having no children and God blesses them. Couples experiencing infertility should get medical advice and continue to pray for God’s will. God may be preparing them for a special task or service.

   - **Isaiah 54:1-5.** The barren wife was kept for a higher purpose and was blessed with many whom she could call her children.
   - **Psalm 113:7-9.** The Lord lifts up the poor, the needy, and the barren woman.
   - **Psalm 27:14.** In times of trouble, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

For discussion:

1. Psalm 128:3-4 says that children are a blessing from God to the man who fears the Lord. Can children of one who does not fear God also be a blessing?
2. Can children who do not follow the parents’ example and teaching, still be a blessing to the parents?
3. Considering the cost of education and raising a family, should parents think differently about the number of children they have?
4. Is polygamy the best option in African culture for the problem of infertility?
Lesson 8. Things that Destroy Marriages

Christ’s love for the church is an example of the relationship within Christian marriage (Ephesians 5:28-32). Three things that destroy the relationship are unhealthy communication, influence to do wrong, and adultery.

1. **Unhealthy Communication.** Communication between partners is necessary for a healthy marriage. *Daily communication is the verbal cement that keeps spouses in touch with each other.* Words build or destroy (James 3:9-10). Words turn away anger or stir up anger (Proverbs 15:1). Words *pierce like a sword*, or bring healing (Proverbs 12:18; 16:24).

   Communication includes listening. In order to understand our partner’s point of view we must first be willing to listen to what she/he is saying. Our words should be *full of grace* (Colossians 4:6), building up and encouraging one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

   - **Amos 3:3.** What must two people do who want to walk together?
   - **Colossians 3:8-9.** What unhealthy communication is mentioned in these verses?
   - **Colossians 3:16-17.** How should we speak to each other?
   - **James 1:19.** What does this verse say about listening?

2. **Influence to do wrong.** God created marriage to be a source of strength. But agreeing together can also lead away from God’s will. Two examples are Adam and Eve, and Abraham and Sarah.

   - **Genesis 3:1-6.** The serpent tempted Eve to disobey God, Eve brought the fruit to Adam, and he also ate (What might have happened if Adam and Eve had talked together about what Satan said before they decided to eat?)
   - **Genesis 12:10-19.** How did Abraham influence Sarah to disobey God?

   On the other hand, unity between husband and wife can be a source of strength to obey God, to *spur one another on toward love and good deeds* (Hebrews 10:24). How were Aquila and Priscilla a good influence to each other? How did they serve the church? (Acts 18:24-26)

3. **Adultery.** In the Old Testament, adultery was prohibited in the 10 commandments (Exodus 20:14). We are called to live in purity and holiness (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We are commanded to honor Christ and to be sexually pure, because our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. Sexual immorality is sin against our own body and against the spirit of Christ within us (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).

   - How can sexual sin affect a person’s body? One’s soul and spirit? One’s relationships such as spouse, family, and children?
   - How does sexual sin in the church affect the body of Christ?
   - Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. What advice does Paul give about controlling sexual desires?

**For discussion:**

1. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? *Abusive words and physical abuse are equally destructive in marriage.*
2. Why do so many spouses turn to people other than their marriage partners to get the physical satisfaction they need?
3. How will healthy communication help deal with things that destroy marriages?
Lesson 9. Management and Money Issues

1. The management of money is a major source of conflict in marriage. Persons who are brought up in two different families can manage money in very different ways, and they can have different perspectives on what is important in a household. They may also disagree about what one spouse tells the other about the money they have earned through their job or small business. When there is secrecy about money within marriage and the family suffers by lack of funds, it can cause quarreling and many other problems in the relationship.

2. The Bible teaches about money. In Jesus’ teachings, 15% of his words deal with money. Why did Jesus say so much about money? Because he knew money would become a power issue, not only in our individual lives but also in our relationships with others.

   What is the teaching about money in each of the following verses:
   - Matthew 6:24-33
   - 2 Corinthians 9:8
   - 1 Timothy 6:6-10
   - 1 Timothy 6:17-19

3. Providing for your family. In the New Testament church, some believers misunderstood their new spiritual freedom, and were not being responsible for their families. Some believed Jesus was coming back soon, so they did not need to work and take care of the family’s needs. Notice Paul’s teaching in the following verses:
   - 1 Timothy 3:4; 5:8. What does Paul say about caring for our family?
   - 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. Why should we work?
   - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13. How was Paul an example to the believers? What did Paul say about the person who does not work (v.10)?

4. Tithes and offerings. In the Old Testament, the people of God were commanded to bring tithes and offerings. The tithe was one tenth of the harvest and animals that were born.

   - Deuteronomy 14:28-29. Who received help from the tithes of the Israelites? Who received blessing by giving?
   - Matthew 6:1-4. What did Jesus teach about the way to give our offerings?
   - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. What did Paul suggest about giving our offerings?
   - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. What moved the church in Macedonia to give their offerings? Did they give out of their wealth or out of their poverty?

For discussion:

1. How have you seen money being used as power in a marriage? Explain.
2. How does money take over our lives and become so important that it replaces God?
3. If God is our provider and helper in all situations, why can’t we just pray and trust God to provide for us and our family?
4. Why is idleness not good?
5. Some people have said, “Money is the root of all evil”, but scripture says, “The love of money is the root of all evil” (1 Timothy 6:10). What is the difference between the two statements?
6. What evils have you seen or experienced related to misuse of money in marriages?
7. Do you agree that the main responsibility for financial stability in marriage should be carried by the husband? Why or why not.
Practical Suggestions for Managing Money:

1. The best way to address money issues in marriage is to begin with basic understandings between partners even before marriage begins.
   - Talk together about important steps to provide well for a family.
   - Talk together about how you would like to manage your money, how your salaries are used, whether you will share your salaries, and how you can begin to put some aside for future needs.
   - If you are already married and discovering that money issues are a threat to your family’s security, sit together and talk openly and honestly about the difficulties and make a plan as to how to work at the problem. Managing money in marriage is a joint effort and requires communication, transparency, and honesty.

2. Begin to keep a record of your income (your earnings) and your expenses (what you spend). This helps you to know how much money is available and also how you are spending the money you receive. If you know what you need daily, weekly, and monthly, you can plan ahead to make your money reach. This is called a budget. You may also discover where you are spending unnecessarily and what you can do to reduce your expenses and make your money reach further.

3. Discuss how to create a savings account so you have money for special projects, education, or emergencies such as medical costs, funerals, or travel expenses.
Lesson 10. Responding to Struggles and Hurts Within Marriage

A perfect marriage is two imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other.

1. A healthy marriage in not one without problems; a healthy marriage is one where husband and wife have learned ways to deal with problems. Marriage is the blending of two different lives into one life, so there will be difficulties and struggles, but working through them can strengthen the marriage. Marriage is a journey of learning to walk together through joy and sadness, in health and sickness.

2. Humility, truth, and forgiveness. Maturity in marriage comes through learning to understand our differences, and using our differences to strengthen our commitment to each other. But when we choose to hold on to our pride and demand our rights, when we choose angry words and arguments to strengthen our position and our power, our marriage is weakened.

What advice do these verses give about building our marriages?
- Ephesians 4:25-27, 29-32. What is the result of holding anger in our heart? (verse 27)
- Colossians 3:12-15. What words describe how we should relate to each other?
- Ephesians 4:32. What does it mean to “be kind and compassionate, forgiving one another”?

Can we follow these words of advice even when our spouse has sinned against us and our marriage?

3. Build on a strong foundation. Prevention is better than the cure.
- Start your marriage according to God’s pattern. (review Lessons 1, 2)
- Live a life of truth and integrity. Ephesians 4:1-3
- Develop patterns of open communication. Matthew 18:19

4. Seek agreement and reconciliation. Matthew 18:15-17
- Talk together, try to come to agreement.
- If the spouse is not willing to talk, share with a friend you trust, ask for prayer and counsel. Evil likes secrecy, but is defeated by light (read John 3:19-21).
- If a spouse is not willing to cooperate, you may need to move on alone. If one is threatened by physical harm, it may be necessary to separate.

5. Concerning divorce.
- Mark 10:2-12. Jesus taught that marriage should not be broken. Divorce was permitted by the Jewish law because “their hearts were hard.” Divorce leads to adultery.
- 1 Corinthians 7:10-16. If an unbelieving spouse is willing to live with a believer, they should continue. It may lead to their salvation (verse 16).

For discussion:
1. What are the causes of most disagreements and arguments within a marriage?
2. Discuss the cultural practices concerning marriage – such as dowry, levirate marriage, and polygamy. How should the church deal with these, from a Biblical perspective?
3. What does “love” look like in a marriage that is struggling?
4. When is it advisable to consider separation or divorce from one’s spouse?
5. According to the Bible, how can we begin to rebuild a marriage that is broken?