

The **big idea** of this series is building stronger families that weather the storms of life.

*“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”* **Prov 14:12**

*“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him’”* **Gen 2:18**

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”* **V24**

*The Shema: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”* Due 6:4

*“Honor marriage and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between a husband and a wife.”*  
**Heb 13: 4 MSG**

*“Living together before marriage seems like a smart way to road test the relationship. But cohabitation may lead you to wed for all the wrong reasons--or turn into a one-way trip to splitsville.”* **The Cohabitation Trap: When 'Just Living Together' Sabotages Love**  
*Psychology Today August 2005*

*“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”* **Hebrews 13:4**

*“If the watchman sees the enemy coming and does not sound the alarm to warn the people he is responsible for their captivity.”* **Ezekiel 33:6**

The plan God has for marriage is a *covenant*—and a covenant has three requirements:

**A covenant has to be \_\_\_\_\_ and it has to be \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Declaration of Intent**

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until you are parted by death?

**A covenant has to be \_\_\_\_\_.**

### The exchange of vows

\_\_\_\_\_, will you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband/wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until you are parted by death?

*"What God has joined together let man not separate."* **Matthew 19:6**

Marriage is a commitment.

**A covenant uses a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.**

### The exchange of the rings

Having love in your hearts for one another you have chosen to exchange rings as a sign and as a seal of the vows that you have made today. \_\_\_\_\_, would you take \_\_\_\_\_ ring and place it on her ring finger and repeat after me? With this ring I seal my promise to be your faithful and loving husband, as God is my witness.

**Resources:** [1] [www.realrelationships.com](http://www.realrelationships.com) [2] Invest \$10 for CD's from previous family series.

**Next Steps:** [1] Commit to whole series [2] Sign up for 5 Love Languages