



UNITY IN MARRIAGE

Building a Marriage that Experiences
and Expresses the Love of God!



LifeSpring
NETWORK

SEMINAR WORKBOOK



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Jason brings a diverse background of leadership to people and organizations with whom he works, executive life coaching, Christian studies, athletics and finance. He is a sought-after speaker, seminar leader, mentor, life coach, and consultant. He has experience in church planting, serving as the lead pastor in two church plants, and mentoring and consulting with church planters. He served on the staff of Stanwich Church in Greenwich, Connecticut for six years. During this time he developed the Omega Course and his life-coaching ministry, which Stanwich Church commissioned him to share with the church at large through the creation of the Life Spring Network. Since 2009 he has worked part-time with Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle, IL. In addition to his work at Trinity, he has been commissioned to lead the LUKE project which is revitalizing Lutheran congregations in the city of Chicago.

Jason earned a B.A. in Business Economics and in Organizational Behavior and Management from Brown University, where he was captain, pre-season All-American, and all-Ivy team member of the football team. He is also a national and Olympic trials qualifier and former school record holder in the discus. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Theological Seminary, is a graduate of the Arrow Leadership Program and has completed the course work for his Doctorate in Christian Leadership at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He is currently engaged in further theological studies through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

Jason is the author of the Omega Course, Delta Course, Creating a Connection Culture Seminar, Body Life Basics Seminar, Unity in Marriage Seminar, Renew Refresh Refocus Retreat, C.O.R.E. Small Group L.E.A.D.E.R. Seminar, Omega Mentor Training Seminar, Empowered Servanthood Seminar, Making Cent\$ Seminar, Leading the Omega Experience Conference and *Beyond Self-Help: The True Path to Harnessing God's Wisdom, Realizing Life's Potential and Living the Abundant Life (Xulon)*.

Jason is a co-founder and partner of E Pluribus Partners, a Greenwich, CT based think tank and consulting firm focused on helping organizations create connection cultures. He serves as a consultant and life coach to many corporate executives and pastors, helping them to create engaging organizations. Jason is a contributing author to *What Managers Say What Employees Hear*. He is also a co-author of the best-selling books, *Fired Up or Burned Out* (Thomas Nelson) and *Connection Culture* (ATD Press).

Jason's wife, Jen, is also a graduate of Brown University with a B.A. in Psychology, as well as Boston University with a Masters of Social Work. She is active in several ministries, especially those relating to youth and families. Jason and Jen have four children.

U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage Workbook for the
U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage Seminar: Building a Marriage
that Experiences and Expresses the Love of God!

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Welcome and Table of Contents

Welcome!

Welcome to the U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage Seminar Workbook. We're glad that you have decided to invest in the growth and development of your marriage. This workbook is designed to help you learn, process and apply the content of this seminar.

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The background of the slide is a composite image. On the right side, there is a vertical strip featuring an abstract painting of a tree. The tree's trunk and branches are rendered in shades of brown, tan, and yellow, with dark, thin lines for the branches. The foliage is depicted with broad, textured strokes of green and yellow. To the left of this painting, the background is composed of three large, solid green rectangular blocks stacked vertically, separated by thin white lines. The text 'Session 1: Getting Acquainted' is centered over the middle green block.

Session 1: Getting Acquainted

Getting Acquainted

U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage

Topics to be covered within the U.N.I.T.Y. Paradigm:

Christian Marriage is about U.N.I.T.Y. –

Unconditional love,

being a Nest for you and for raising the next generation,

Intimacy to the extreme,

a Tool for honing your character,

and a Yoke which binds you to a common mission.

Ground Rules for our journey together:

1. What's shared here stays here.
2. We have come together to share our experiences in marriage in order to build one another up and learn from one another. The assumption here is that nobody drifts towards greatness in any area of his/her life, so we have come together for intentional growth and training.
3. Everyone is free to ask any question they want and to challenge each other in any assumptions about what makes a marriage truly great.
4. I will play the role of teacher, facilitator and mediator if things get too intense or out of line.
5. We are going to use Scripture and a Christian view of marriage as the assumed basis of authority which will guide our discussion.

Who we are as your trainers:

Individual History

Marriage History

Ministry History

Our Family Now

Every Christian Marriage is a Ministry Marriage

We believe that we are called together in Marriage as believer priests to advance the Kingdom of God. God designed the journey of life to be done in community and the most intimate aspect of that communal experience is found within the covenant of marriage. It is for that reason that our relationships to our spouses are second only to our relationship with God.

When you take this approach to marriage and ministry, there are predictable challenges along the way that only God can guide and empower us through if we are seeking to live out our married lives His way.

Matthew 11:12

“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.”

What does it mean to advance the Kingdom of God in your marriage?

How are you intentionally and forcefully advancing the Kingdom of God in your marriage?

6

The current state of discipleship as captured in a recent discipleship survey (2005) conducted by the Barna Group:
“When Christian adults were asked to identify their most important goal for their lives,

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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Top Ten Threats to Ministry Marriages ¹

1. Inability to balance family life and ministry
2. Leaders more concerned about ministry calling than marriage covenant
3. Failing to facilitate partner's dreams - not helping one another grow
4. Failing to have fun
5. Alternative confidant found outside marriage
6. Money problems
7. Ministry makes the spouse live like a single parent/widow/widower
8. Unfulfilled expectations
9. Admiration sought from someone other than partner
10. Isolation

Marriage Rules from a Male Perspective ²

1. Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down.
2. Saturday = sports. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides. Let it be!
3. Shopping is NOT a sport. And no, we are never going to think of it that way.
4. Crying is blackmail.
5. Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one:
Subtle hints do not work!
Strong hints do not work!
Obvious hints do not work!
JUST SAY IT!
6. 'Yes' and 'No' are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.
7. Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That's what we do. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.
8. A headache that lasts for 17 months is a problem. See a doctor!
9. Anything we said six months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after seven days.
10. If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us!

Getting Acquainted

11. If something we said can be interpreted two ways, and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.
12. You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done: not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.
13. Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during commercials.
14. Christopher Columbus did not need directions and neither do we.
15. ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings.
Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a color.
Pumpkin is also a fruit.
We have no idea what mauve is.
16. If it itches, it will be scratched. We do that.
17. If we ask what is wrong and you say “nothing,” we will act like nothing’s wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.
18. If you ask a question you don’t want an answer to, expect an answer you don’t want to hear.
19. When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine. Really.
20. Don’t ask us what we’re thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as: Sex, Sports, or Work.
21. You have enough clothes.
22. You have too many shoes.
23. I am in shape. Round is a shape.
24. Yes, I know, I have to sleep on the couch tonight, but did you know men really don’t mind that. It’s like camping.