

# Beloved

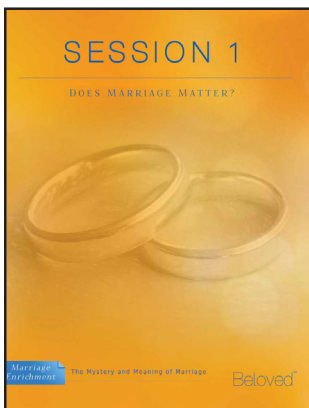
FINDING HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE

## Homily Talking Points



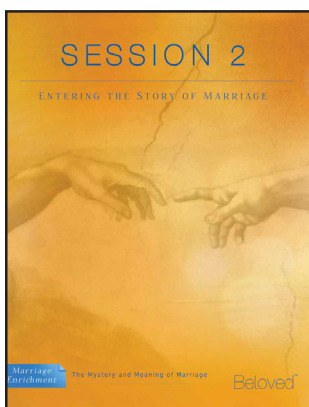
## Beloved: The Mystery & Meaning of Marriage

### 1. DOES MARRIAGE MATTER?



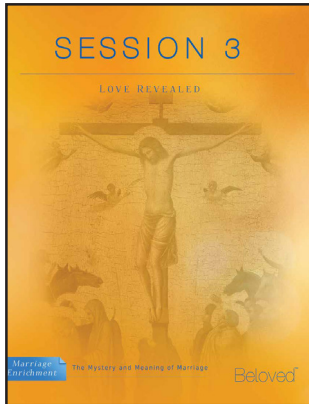
- Long before cultures or governments ever discussed marriage, God placed on the human heart a longing for the unique, lifelong commitment and total self-giving love found in the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- Marriage, your marriage, is part of God's plan of salvation for you.
- What does God's design mean for us in our daily lives together?
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Mystery and Meaning of Marriage, Episode 1: Does Marriage Matter?*

### 2. ENTERING THE STORY OF MARRIAGE



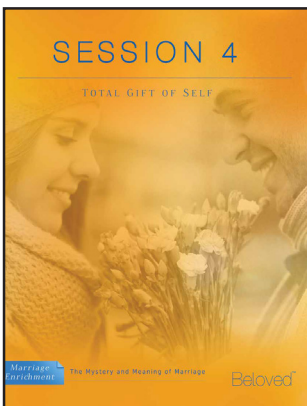
- Our marriages are not small stories in which we are the main characters.
- Your "I do" fits into the much bigger story of God's desire for humanity, going all the way back to Adam and Eve.
- From the beginning of creation, God unveiled his plan for married couples to share in his divine love.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Mystery and Meaning of Marriage, Episode 2: Entering the Story of Marriage.*

### 3. LOVE REVEALED



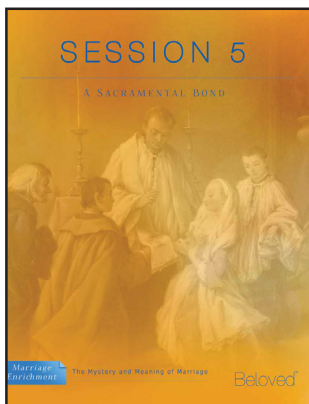
- God reveals the meaning of love most perfectly on the Cross, where Jesus Christ—the Bridegroom—lays down his life in sacrifice for his bride, the Church.
- The Cross helps us to understand the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her” (Ephesians 5:25).
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Mystery and Meaning of Marriage, Episode 3: Love Revealed*.

### 4. THE TOTAL GIFT OF SELF



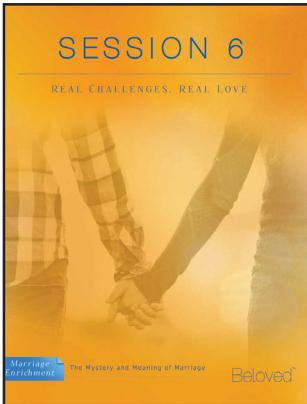
- Small sacrifices teach us and help us practice to make a total gift of self.
- We are emotionally, physically and spiritually full when we sacrifice for those we love. Love is not simply a feeling; it is a sacrifice.
- You can discover the power of sacrificial living and loving in your relationship.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Mystery and Meaning of Marriage, Episode 4: The Total Gift of Self*.

### 5. A SACRAMENTAL BOND



- Marriage creates something that didn't exist before: a sacramental bond exists between a husband and wife.
- This bond is essential to living out in both the mystery of Matrimony and the daily reality of married life.
- How do we make the sacramental bond a meaningful reality amidst the daily pressures of family life?
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Mystery and Meaning of Marriage, Episode 5: A Sacramental Bond*.

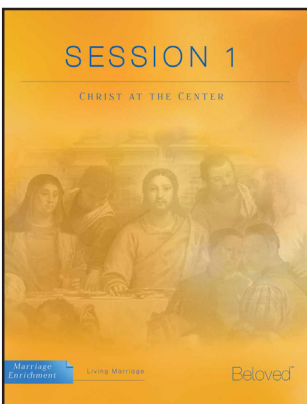
## 6. REAL CHALLENGES, REAL LOVE



- Marriage is beautiful. God pours out abundant grace through this sacrament.
- But it's also messy.
- Conflict, miscommunication, unexpected challenges in life, and wounds from the past are part of every marriage.
- Every conflict, every challenge, is an opportunity to show love.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Mystery and Meaning of Marriage, Episode 6: Real Challenges, Real Love*.

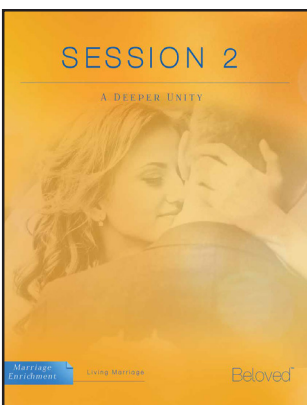
## Beloved: Living Marriage

### 1. CHRIST AT THE CENTER



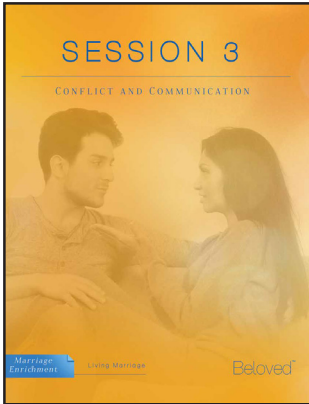
- Putting Jesus at the center of our married lives is crucial for maintaining a strong marriage.
- Only in him can we find the strength and grace to face the many challenges and joys that come our way.
- Looking at the cross in prayer to find the needed grace to continue loving amid difficulties.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Living Marriage, Episode 1: Christ at the Center*.

### 2. A DEEPER UNITY



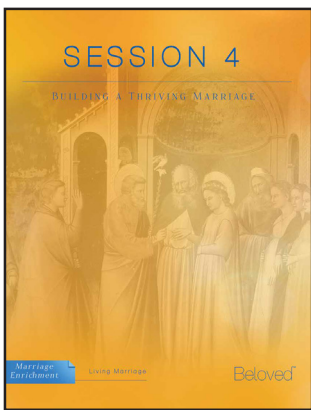
- There is more to forming beautiful and lasting marriages than romance and sheer effort.
- God wants to use commitment to deepen our union and intimacy.
- Love is fragile and will always face trials.
- Love grows by loving, by mutually submitting, and by serving each other.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Living Marriage, episode 2, A Deeper Unity*.

### 3. CONFLICT AND COMMUNICATION



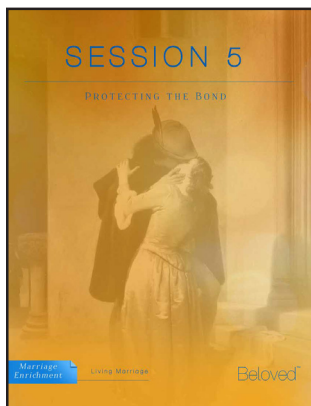
- Every marriage has conflict.
- Healthy conflict is normal part of our relationships.
- The art of effective communication in marriage can turn tension and conflict into opportunities for growth.
- Harmful conflict results when we fight each other instead of fighting together.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Living Marriage, episode 3, Conflict and Communication.*

### 4. BUILDING A THRIVING MARRIAGE



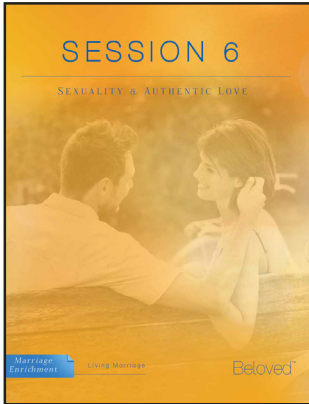
- Strong marriages don't happen by chance.
- Successful marriages require self-awareness, grace, and forgiveness to battle the wounds that we have all experienced in ourselves and in our families.
- To build strong marriages, we cannot let the ideal be the enemy of the good.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Living Marriage, episode 4, Building a Thriving Marriage.*

### 5. PROTECTING THE BOND



- Marriage is a priceless gift, but sometimes the bonds of marriage can be fragile, threadbare, and neglected.
- We must be watchful for the pitfalls, distractions, and temptations that can pull us away from each other.
- We must cultivate the actions and activities that keep us together.
- You protect your valuables, and your marriage is your most precious treasure.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Living Marriage, episode 5, Protecting the Bond.*

## 6. SEXUALITY AND AUTHENTIC LOVE



- The sexual act is designed by God to be both unitive and procreative.
- Love is expressed through sex as a unifying and life-giving act.
- We don't have to be conformed to this world; we are called to understand and live out the fullness of God's plan for sexuality and authentic love.
- Invite parishioners to watch *Beloved, Living Marriage episode 6, Sexuality and Authentic Love*.