

✠ FRONTLINE



MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

A sepia-toned illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a vineyard with rows of grapevines is visible, separated from the rest of the scene by a rustic wooden fence. A dirt road or path leads from the vineyard into the distance, flanked by fields and more vineyards. In the background, there are rolling hills and a small cluster of buildings, possibly a farm or a small village, under a sky with some clouds. The overall style is that of a vintage postcard or a historical illustration.

Welcome

A sepia-toned illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a vineyard with rows of grapevines is visible, separated from a dirt road by a wooden fence. The road leads into the distance, flanked by fields and trees. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a cloudy sky. The word "Discussion" is superimposed in the center of the image.

Discussion

Discussion

1. If even in the perfection of Eden God said, “It is not good for man to be alone,” what does that reveal about our deepest need in marriage—and what danger do we face if we ignore it?
2. When you stood before a pastor and said “I do,” were you saying yes only to love and companionship, or did you realize you were enlisting in a lifelong mission? How does the idea that your marriage is a mission make you feel? What happens if you and your spouse start pulling in different directions on this mission?



What is the Mission of Marriage?



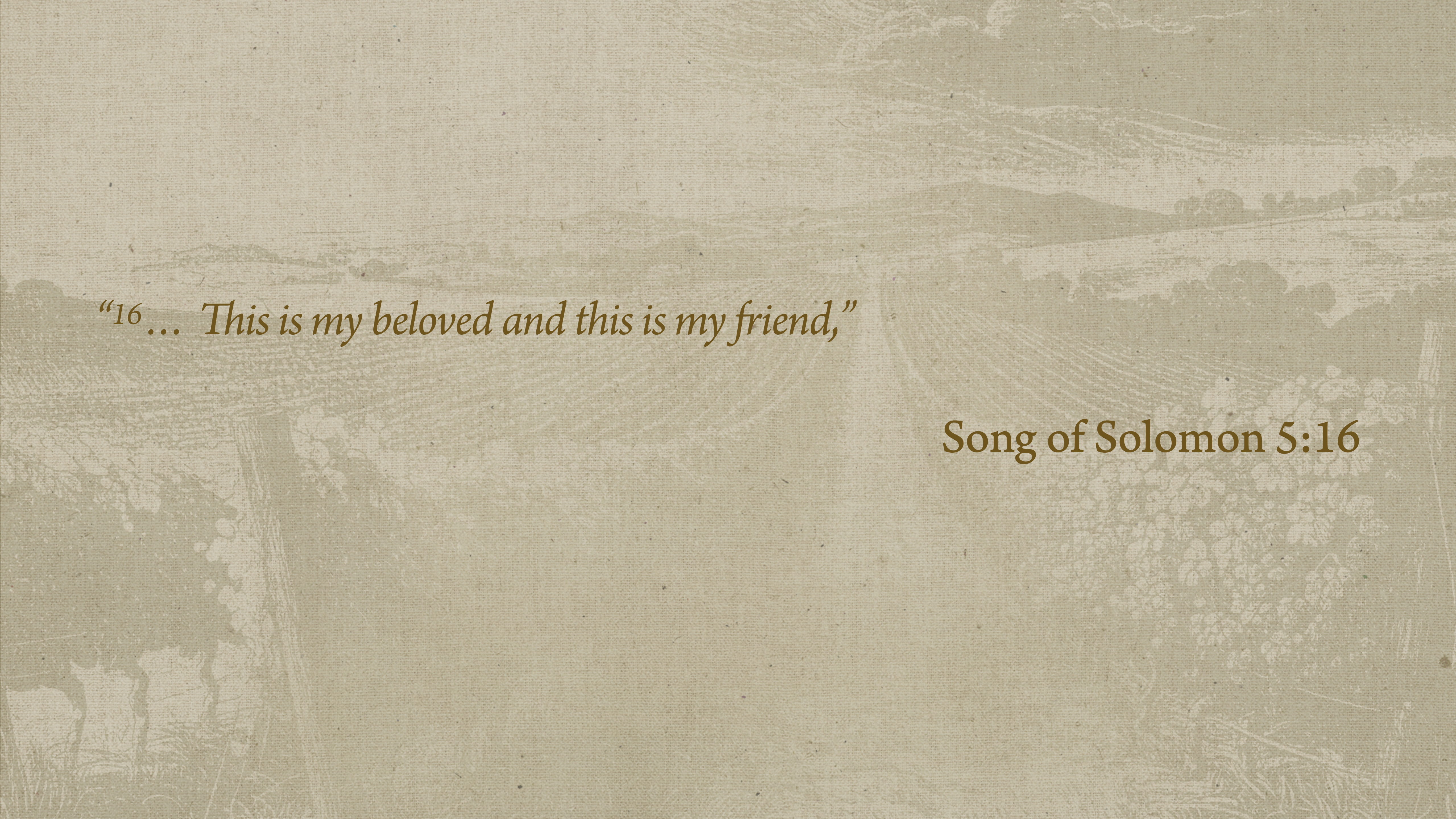
Session 4

The Mission of Marriage



“¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone;...””

Genesis 2:18



“16 ... This is my beloved and this is my friend,”

Song of Solomon 5:16

Marriage - A Lifelong Mission

- To know and enjoy friendship face to face.
- To work side by side.
- To fight the real enemy back to back.

Marriage - A Lifelong Mission

- To know and enjoy friendship face to face.
- To work side by side.
- To fight the real enemy back to back.
- ▶ To help each other become our future glory-selves—the people God is shaping us to be in Christ to reflect the gospel to the world.

“25 as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her...”

Ephesians 5:25

“I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that. I want to partner with you and God in this journey.”

Timothy Keller - *Meaning of Marriage*



**MARRIAGE
WORKSHOP**

The Three-Strand Cable

*“⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.
¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Three-Strand Cable

1. Face to Face:

The Three-Strand Cable

1. **Face to Face:** An intimate companion that knows us better than anyone.

The Three-Strand Cable

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2. **Shoulder to Shoulder:**

The Three-Strand Cable

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The Three-Strand Cable

1. **Face to Face:** An intimate companion that knows us better than anyone.
2. **Shoulder to Shoulder:** A co-laborer working together toward the great common goal.
3. **Back to Back:**

The Three-Strand Cable

1. **Face to Face:** An intimate companion that knows us better than anyone.
2. **Shoulder to Shoulder:** A co-laborer working together toward the great common goal.
3. **Back to Back:** An ally, fighting the same fight against the real enemy.

A sepia-toned illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a stone wall runs across the frame, with a dirt road or path leading into the distance. The middle ground shows rolling hills and fields, some with trees. The background features more distant hills and a small cluster of buildings. The overall style is that of a vintage book cover or a historical illustration.

I. Face to Face

An Intimate Companion That Knows Us Better Than Anyone

“¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?”

Ecclesiastes 4:11

I. Face to Face

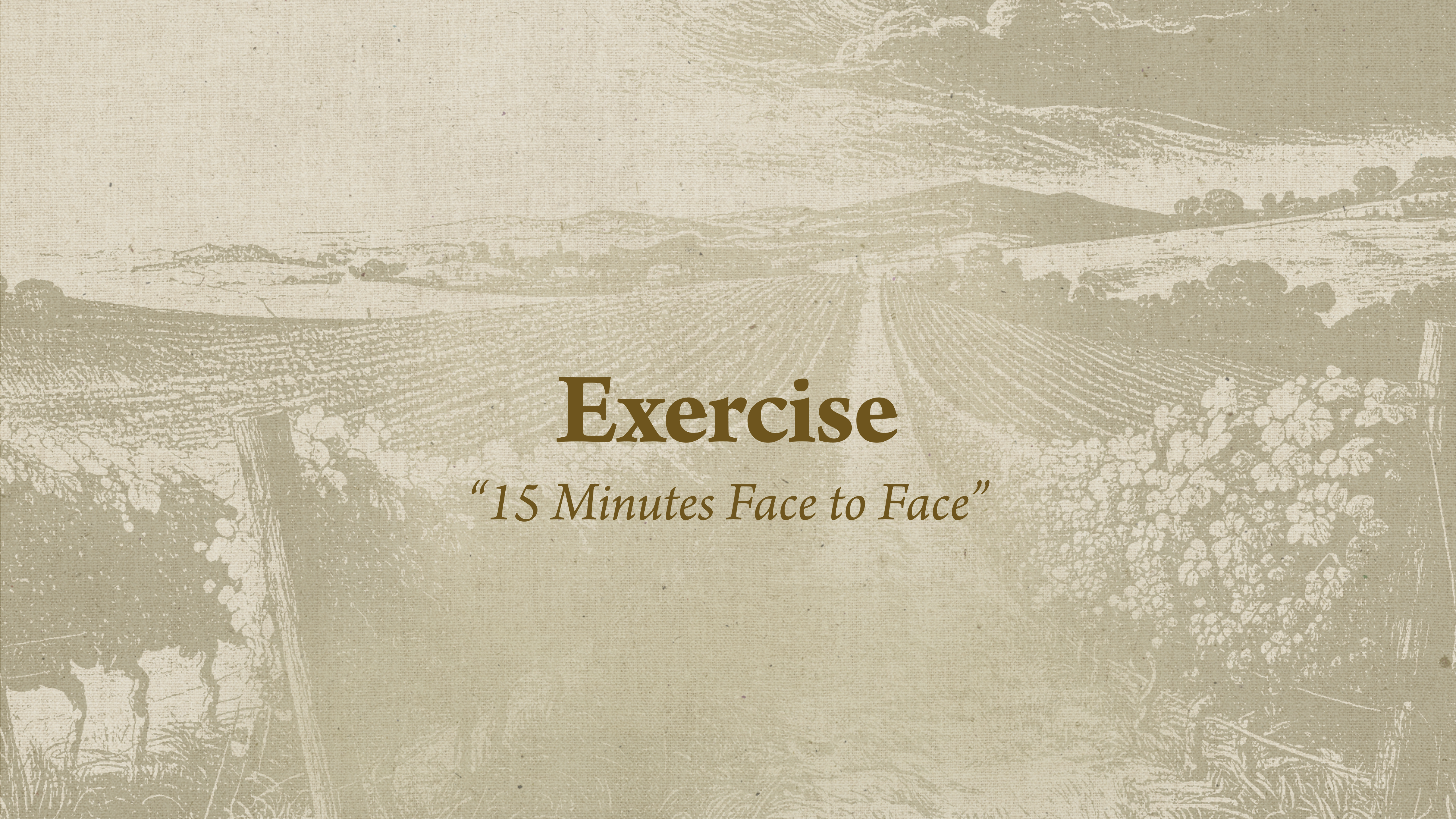
- Where are we going?
- What are you dreaming about?
- What are you afraid of?
- Where do you see God at work?

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God.”

Timothy Keller - *Meaning of Marriage*



**MARRIAGE
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Exercise

“15 Minutes Face to Face”

15 Minutes Face to Face

1. One person stand on a chair and the other sit. Now the standing person tell the sitting person one thing that I just shared that really stood out to them.
2. Now sit back to back, the other person share one thing that I shared about the first strand in the steal cable of the mission of marriage with them.

15 Minutes Face to Face

3. Now turn face to face, hold hands and look into the eyes. This is the posture of true intimacy. This is the posture of conflict resolution. How difficult would it be to be angry with your spouse and yell at them from this posture? What about the others? Take 5 minutes and intentionally consider the importance of presence and the one thing that stood out to you in this lesson.

The background of the page is a sepia-toned illustration of a rural landscape. It features rolling hills, a winding road or path, and a stone wall in the foreground. The scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of community and shared labor.

II. Shoulder to Shoulder

A Co-Laborer Working Together Toward the Great Common Goal

*“⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.
¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when
he falls and has not another to lift him up!”*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

II. Shoulder to Shoulder

- Sharing the load.
- Sharing the reward for your work.
- Picking each other up when you fall.
- Calling out strengths.
- Pointing each other to eternal things.

“¹⁷This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory... ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18



Exercise

“Mission Alignment”

Mission Alignment

1. Take 2 minutes and individually write down your top three priorities as a couple. Where are you going?
2. Share & Compare: Turn to each other in the face to face posture. Discuss where they align and where they differ. Take 5 minutes to discuss and agree what your top one to three actually are.

The background of the page is a sepia-toned illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a stone wall on the left and a field with rows of crops on the right. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a small cluster of trees. In the background, there are more hills and a small town or village. The overall tone is historical and pastoral.

III. Back to Back

An Ally, Fighting The Same Fight Against The Real Enemy

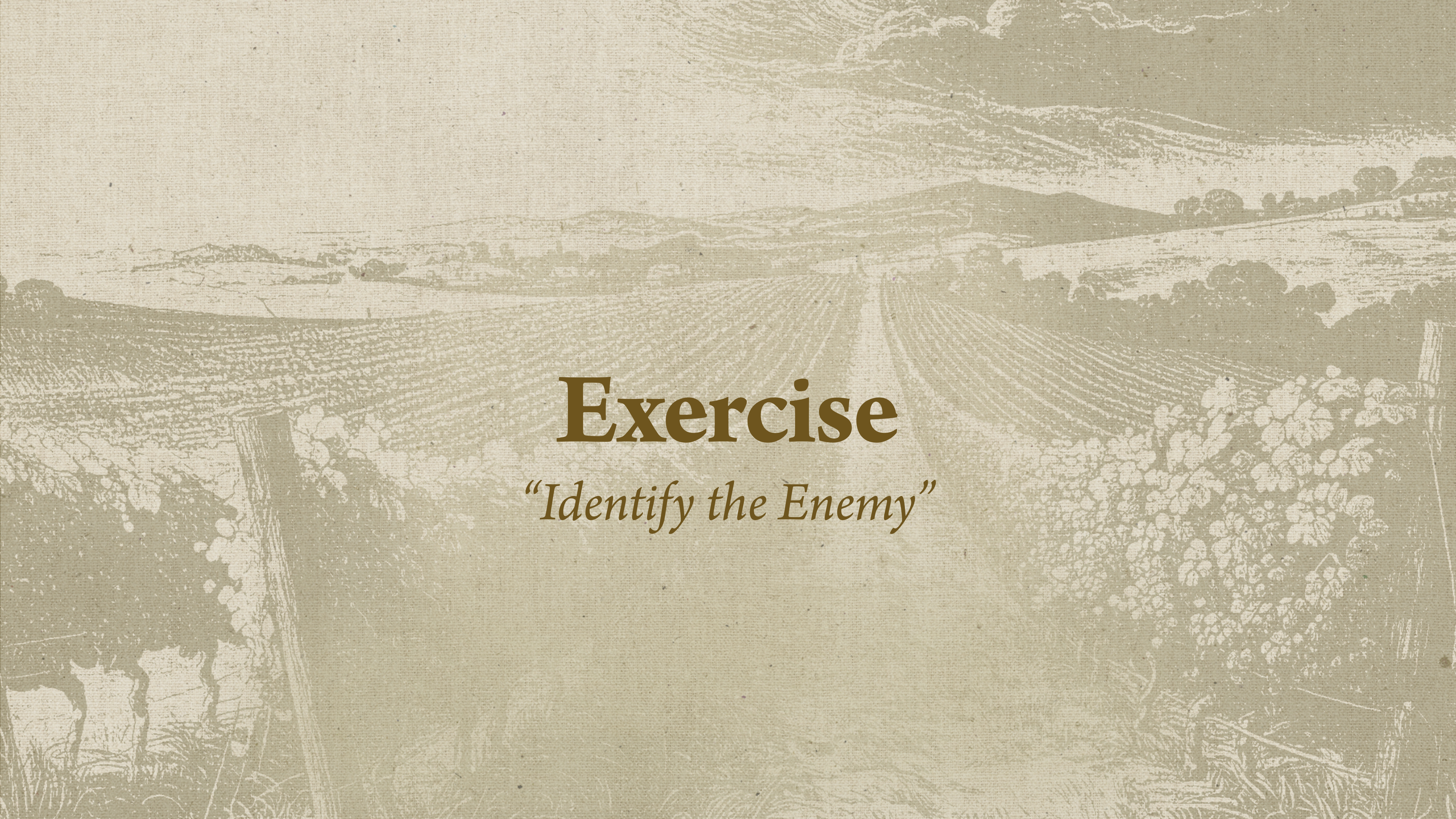
“¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:12

III. Back to Back

The real enemies:

- a. Sin that clings so closely.
- b. Weights that slow you down.
- c. Internal and external pressures threatening your unity.



Exercise

“Identify the Enemy”

Identify the Enemy

1. Separately, write down: “If I were the enemy, how would I attack our marriage?”
2. Then share face to face. Where are the vulnerabilities?
How can you cover each other’s backs?



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