



## Bonus Session: Cohabitation

### Worksheet

**W**e live in a culture where about half of couples cohabitate before marriage. Living together seems to have a lot of appeal. You might say, "Let's just live together and try it ahead of time and see what happens. This will help us make our adjustments so that we will have a marriage that lasts." or "Let's try it and if it doesn't work out, no one gets hurt."

A lie has been bought from the enemy of God that we should live together before marriage, believing that if we test the waters we can be sure that we will have a successful marriage. The reality is that living together before marriage does not help a couple adjust, does not help them discern whether or not the marriage will work, nor does it prevent them from getting hurt. Studies have shown some startling facts:

1. Living together before marriage **I**\_\_\_\_\_ the risk of breaking up after marriage.
2. It increases the risk of domestic **V**\_\_\_\_\_ for women.
3. Increases the risk of physical abuse and sexual abuse in **C**\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Cohabiting couples report **L**\_\_\_\_\_ levels of happiness.
5. Cohabiting couples report **L**\_\_\_\_\_ levels of sexual connection and satisfaction.
6. **P**\_\_\_\_\_ relationships with parents.
7. Cohabitors' may face more serious difficulties and **I**\_\_\_\_\_ rates of depression within marriage.

*"..I care more about you and more about what God wants in your life, than I do how you want to respond to me right now!" Gary Rosberg*



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You might say as a couple, "But we're different. We're the exception. We'll make it." Everyone likes to think they're the exception. But you are risking the life of your marriage if you are living together.

God wants you to seek forgiveness from one another, reclaim the moral high ground, and step into separate living conditions until you marry. Through obedience to Him, you allow God to bless your marriage

Ephesians 5:3 - But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Remember Romans 8:1 - "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." This verse is a great testament to the grace that God give us all. We only need to ask his forgiveness with a repentant heart and we are forgiven and the sin is forgotten. It is up to you to make this right in the eyes of God.

### COUPLE CONVERSATION

If you are living together, why do you believe this is a better arrangement for your relationship?

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If you are currently living together, will you make a commitment to a new life apart until you are married? Write this commitment below.

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#### **Take Action...**

##### *Step 1:*

Ask each other's forgiveness for short circuiting God's plan for your marriage.

##### *Step 2:*

Create a plan to establish separate living conditions. Identify friends, family, coworkers, church leaders, and any others that can assist you in securing a new living space.

##### *Step 3:*

Pack a bag, pray with your fiancé that God will give you the grace and strength to follow Him in obedience, and leave tonight.

It will be difficult at first but it will get easier. Take comfort in the fact that God loves it when we obey him (John 14:15). Keep in mind that you will see each other tomorrow and, once you are married, every morning after for the rest of your lives. You can do it!