Welcome to Heart-to-Heart!
Gods Blueprint for the Ordinary Days of Marriage
“In any relationship, there will be frightening spells in which your feelings of love dry up. And when that happens you must remember that the essence of marriage is that it is a covenant, a commitment, a promise of future love. So what do you do? You do the acts of love, despite your lack of feeling. You may not feel tender, sympathetic, and eager to please, but in your actions you must BE tender, understanding, forgiving and helpful. And, if you do that, as time goes on you will not only get through the dry spells, but they will become less frequent and deep, and you will become more constant in your feelings. This is what can happen if you decide to love.” – Timothy Keller
Genesis 2:8-25
[on hand-out]
A Hole in My Heart by Claire Berman
Obstacles that press marriage toward melt-down:

- Conflict
- Communication
- Finances
- Sex
- Discipline (other issues with children)
- In-laws
- Addiction
- Sin
- Hurt and Offense
- Sickness
- And more …
The enemy’s strategy is to throw an obstacle in the pathway of every marriage until it’s destroyed!
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV
• Marriage is meant to be a picture of the Father’s love for the church.
• Marriage is a covenant relationship.
“Remember that God will allow His children to choose their path. Then, just as He provided the children of Israel after they rebelled against Him by refusing to believe in and fight for their promised land, He will also provide for his children who bail on their marriages. Still, there will always be that unknown blessing that could have been obtained if only married couples would be strong and courageous in every battle set before them. Like the Israelite’s who never lived in the promised land, those who give up on their marriage will never have the chance to experience the blessings that only come through entering battle. Marriage takes courage. It requires bravery. But, oh the prize that awaits those who – like Joshua and Caleb – magnify the promises of the Lord above the obstacles in life.” - Deborah Ross, Healing a Broken Marriage
“… there are three sides to every story . . . yours, mine, and God's (otherwise known as the truth). Then within each of those three sides, there's also my perception of each, your perception of each, and again, the truth. I come to you, baring my soul and my faults in whispers. I am ashamed of myself and the ways I behaved during that union. And yet I come to warn you. My desire is to elevate the beauty of Christian marriage in our culture. So I come bearing the knowledge that only someone whose hard marriage ended has acquired. Please listen with an open heart, not necessarily to who I am and what I did wrong, but to see if you recognize yourself in the ways I related.” – Elisabeth Klein, “How I Ruined My Christian Marriage in 19 Years”
God’s blueprint for marriage is that the husband and wife become one flesh and live in unity with one another.
“Forgiveness is not excusing one’s behavior but recognizing that the grace of Jesus goes deeper than my hurt.” – Pastor Dan
Seven Ways to Fight for Your Marriage and Trust God’s Blueprint in The Ordinary Days:

1. Slow down long enough to look at your marriage.
2. Choose a humble heart toward your husband.
3. Don’t deal with sin in your marriage lightly.
4. Forgive quickly.
5. Refuse to be a control freak.
6. Speak the truth about your needs.
7. Enjoy sex!
“...We must say to ourselves something like this: 'Well, when Jesus looked down from the cross, he didn't think "I am giving myself to you because you are so attractive to me." No, he was in agony, and he looked down at us - denying him, abandoning him, and betraying him - and in the greatest act of love in history, he STAYED. He said, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." He loved us, not because we were lovely to him, but to make us lovely. That is why I am going to love my spouse.' Speak to your heart like that, and then fulfill the promises you made on your wedding day.” — Timothy Keller