**“Save the Date” – Part 5**

**Mar-9/10, 2024**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins]Read **Gen 1:27-28a & Gen 2:24-25.** After allowing the group time to reflect on the passages, ask them to share what most stands out to them.

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. In the last week of the “Save the Date” sermon series, Tom said, *“Genesis 1:27, teaches us that God created us in his image, therefore we have inherent dignity, worth and value.”*
   1. How does knowing this impact your beliefs about your identity? Without knowing that dignity, worth and value come from God, what other counterfeits does the world offer to people?
2. Tom stated, *“Genesis 1:27, also teaches us that we don’t create our gender; God does so as a gift to us”.* 
   1. What do you think Tom meant by saying our gender is a “gift” to us?
3. Tom taught, *“Marriage is a covenant, not simply a contract. A contract is based upon mutual distrust. A covenant is based on mutual commitment.”*
   1. In your own words, describe the differences between contract and covenant relationships.
   2. Why do you think it is good that God looks at his relationship with you as a *covenant* relationship?
4. Tom shared, *“When it comes to marriage (or any relationship) lazy will make excuses; love will make a way. When we are selfish, we get lazy & make excuses. When we are committed, we love even when we don’t feel like it.”*
   1. Can you think of a time in one of your relationships, when being lazy (by you or the other person) was seen as loving?
   2. Share an example of loving someone even when you didn’t feel like it. How was it received, or what was the outcome?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins]

* Have each person in your group share a prayer request, and then have someone pray.
* Pray that God by His Spirit would help the people of CA to recognize that their dignity, worth and value come from being made in God’s image.
* Pray that many would make 1st time commitments to Jesus at CA’s upcoming Easter services.