



hi, we are  
**TIM & JAN**  
**WASHINGTON**

**J**an and I met in Junior High English class in Houston. I was immediately smitten but she gave me no interest. We became just friends and our parents became friends as well. We went on to different High Schools and we barely kept in touch until my parents invited her to my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday party. She later told me that her parents had forced her to attend my party. Now the tables were turned, she took an interest and I was somewhat disinterested by then— well, kinda, sort of. We went on to get married right after college as she got pregnant while we dated. I did “the right thing” by marrying her and I didn’t think twice about starting a new life with Jan.

I took a job in sales immediately after Texas A&M and I was on the road, traveling to South Texas and an occasional out of state trip. We moved to New Braunfels and we began our family. Our lives were on the fast track as I handled a new job, a new city and a new baby all at once. What a whirlwind. We both agreed we felt a desire to be part of a church, although I rarely attended in my life and (Jan and her family were devout Catholics), but looking back, God was working on me even then. We joined Oakwood 23 years ago. Other than marrying Jan, to this day I tell people half-jokingly that was one of the few smart decisions I’ve made in my life.

We began to grow in God’s word and we took courses that were offered here at Oakwood, teaching some classes and each joining a men’s and women’s group. We even taught Sunday school. Jan and I rarely argued and we had many friends. We looked and acted like the “perfect” couple on the outside. As we fast forward through our relationship, I began to have doubts about my decision of marrying her. “Did I make the right

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choice?” “Maybe there is someone else out there for me?” Again, looking back, some of my needs were not being met and I didn’t realize it. We rarely communicated about “us”. It was always about the kids, finances, family, friends, work, church – but never “us”. Both of our parents went through some difficult divorces that as you can imagine tore our hearts to pieces. Jan and I vowed we would never do the same to each other and to our two girls.

Being on the road allows for a lot of freedom—too much freedom in my case. I became tempted and broke my vows to Jan. She discovered this and I broke her heart and smashed it to pieces. This was over three years ago and she slowly forgave me. It was a long and difficult road for the both of us. We thought of giving up. Psalm 51:11 says “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.” It was truly God’s grace, prayer and her forgiveness that allowed for this healing and restoration. Jan found her strength through the power of Ephesians 5, she meditated on it daily.

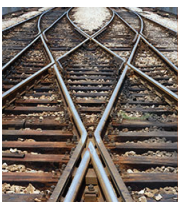
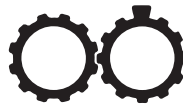
We sought out Christian counseling and many friends and family prayed for our marriage. We stuck it through and survived. Praise God! Jan was healed but she was deeply scarred, so we enrolled in re|engage. We met with other couples that had similar struggles. You are not alone. Look around you. Chances are the “perfect” couple you are sitting next to is struggling too.

Today, I would describe our marriage as being in a “sweet spot”. We pray more often together, we laugh more often, we communicate more clearly, we are more intimate in ways we never thought possible; we even send fun texts to each other on a daily basis. We’ve

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learned to rediscover “us”. Our prayer is that you and your spouse take the time to invest in each other through this class. Each spouse comes into a marriage with their own “baggage”. Re|engage exposes this in a caring and tactful manner. Please don’t wait until the “Check Engine Light” comes on in your marriage. Get the tune up it deserves now.

*The Washingtons*



**re|engage**  
a safe  
place for  
couples to  
reconnect

**SUNDAY NIGHTS**

STUDENT WORSHIP CENTER

6:15 PM

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