

Pre-marital Mentoring Syllabus

Purpose:

The mentoring process provides a safe atmosphere to discover what the Bible says about marriage – the responsibilities, the joy and excitement, as well as the challenges that are ahead. Additionally, it will promote the development of the strong relationship needed to help make the tough decisions both before and after the wedding. To afford maximum benefit for the engaged couple, these sessions are confidential.

Mentors:

The mentor couple consists of a husband and wife who have a committed, growing, and Christ-centered marriage. This couple has been married for several years, thereby providing insight from their experiences. Your mentors' desire to build a secure, intimate relationship that can provide support now and for the future.

Rewards:

The engaged couple will gain useful examples of situations they will face in everyday married life. Individually you will gain a better understanding of your fiancé/fiancée's expectations, values and attitudes that each brings to the marriage, as well as gaining tools to enhance the quality of your future together.

Requirement:

The engaged couple needs a willingness to learn and a commitment of approximately four to six hours of homework and interaction with their fiancé/fiancée before each session.

Purity Agreement:

As a means of gaining God's best for your marriage, your mentors will help you understand the purpose behind agreeing to stay sexually pure prior to the wedding. They will have copies of an agreement you are requested to sign, and further, they will be supportive in helping keep the agreement.

Materials:

Bible

Workbook – "Before You Say 'I Do'" (one per person) by H. Norman Wright

Text Book Marriage on the Rock (one per couple) by Jimmy & Karen Evans

Session Descriptions:

Session 1 – Getting Acquainted

Purpose:

Both you and your mentors will share your relationship with God. Further conversation about your family background, friends, how you met, how you proposed and other general information will help you gain rapport with your mentors. Your mentors will also share with you some of God's ideas on love.

Assignment: Prior to meeting complete chapter 13 in "Before You Say, 'I Do'" and in "Marriage on the Rock" read the Introduction, Ch. 1 & 2 and Appendix 1.

Session 2 – God's Design for Marriage

Purpose:

To determine what the Bible means when it says "the two shall become one": Marriage is similar to Christ's relationship with His church, it is the ultimate companionship vehicle, and it is permanent. You will also explore some ways Satan uses to divide couples.

Assignment: Prior to meeting complete chapters 1 & 2 in "Before You Say, 'I Do' " and in "Marriage on the Rock" read, Ch. 5, 6, 7 & 16.

Session 3 – The Sexual Role in Marriage

Purpose:

Although covered on a very high level, you will learn how such a good and pure God-given need can also be the most destructive of all life's forces. Through frank discussion you will discover many gender-related differences and how these differences can actually harmonize the relationship. You will also be given some suggestions to keep both your dating and married life as God intended it.

Assignment: Prior to meeting complete chapters 3 & 12 in "Before You Say, 'I Do'" and in "Marriage on the Rock" read, Ch. 6 & 20 with chapter 19 being optional.

Session 4 – The Husband's Role in Marriage

Purpose:

The God assigned leadership role of the husband is explored. You will also cover some needs of a wife and how it is the husband's sole responsibility to meet those needs. Finally, you will discuss how the different husband/wife roles complement each other.

Assignment: Prior to meeting complete chapters 4 & 5 in "Before You Say, 'I Do' " and in "Marriage on the Rock" read Ch. 8, 9 & 10. Also read Ephesians 5:22 – 33; 1 Peter 3:7 and 1 Corinthians 7:1-5.

Session 5 – The Wife's Role in Marriage

Purpose:

The God assigned role of helper is often misunderstood but will be investigated. You will also consider some needs of a husband along with discovering that it is the wife's sole responsibility to meet those needs. Finally, you will discuss how the different wife/husband roles balance each other.

Assignment: Prior to meeting complete chapters 6 & 7 in "Before You Say, 'I Do' " and in "Marriage on the Rock" read, Ch. 11, 12 & 13. Also, read Proverbs 31:10-31.

Session 6 – Communication and Conflict Resolution

Purpose:

Forgiveness is God's wonderful gift to man. It is the only healing medium that repairs the relationship first between God and man and then between people. You will be encouraged to gain God's help in forgiving each other and in the healing process. Also being considered are different levels of communication, what does conflict look like, tools to address conflict and what to do on those rare occasions a couple gets to impasse.

Assignment: Prior to meeting complete chapters 9 & 10 in "Before You Say, 'I Do' " and in "Marriage on the Rock" read, Ch. 3 & 17.

Session 7 – Marriage & Money

Purpose:

Finances can get away from any married couple but newlyweds seem more vulnerable. You will delve into subjects like, stewardship, debt, budgets, investments, and planning for retirement. Further you will consider ramifications of the role your parents/in-laws may play in your finances.

Assignment: Prior to meeting complete chapters 8 & 11 in "Before You Say, 'I Do' " and in "Marriage on the Rock" read, Ch. 18 & 21.

Additional Resources

"The 10 Commandments of Marriage"
By Ed Young

"What Husbands Need to Know"
By Judy Carden

"Happily Ever After"
By Toben and Joanne Heim

"Love and Respect"
By Emerson Eggerichs

"Saving your Second Marriage before
it Starts"
By Les & Leslie Parrott

"The Five Love Languages"
By Gary D. Chapman

"Marriage: God's Way"
By Henry R. Brandt & Kerry L. Skinner

"His Needs, Her Needs"
By Willard F. Harley

"Starting Your Marriage Right"
By Dennis & Barbara Rainey

"Preparing for Marriage God's Way"
By Wayne A. Mack, Nathan A. Mack

"Sacred Marriage"
By Gary Thomas

"Preparing for Marriage – Workbook"
By Dennis Rainey

"Marriage: God's Design for Intimacy"
By James & Martha Reppome

"The Honeymoon of your Dreams"
By Walt Larimore & Susan Crockett

"Fighting for your Marriage"
By Howard Markman, Scott Stanley &
Susan Blumburg

"The Most Important Year in a
Woman's Life"
By Susan Devries & Bobbie
Walgemuth

"The Most Important Year in a Man's
Life"
By Robert Walgemuth & Mark Devries