

Meeting Schedule

Session	Topic	Day	Date	Time	Place
1	Overview				
2	Foundation Of Marriage				
3	Communication & Conflict				
4	Family Matters				
5	Differences & Roles				
6	Finances				
7	Making Marriage Great				
8	Sexual Relationship				
	Rehearsal				
	Wedding				

Session 2

The Foundation Of Marriage (Spiritual Intimacy)

What constitutes a successful marriage in your way of thinking?

I. God's Original Design For Marriage

Read Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25, Malachi 2:13-16 and Proverbs 18:22 and answer the following questions:

- 1) Who originated the institution of marriage?
- 2) What are some of the purposes of marriage and why was it originated?
- 3) How is marriage good?
- 4) What does leaving father and mother involve?
- 5) List various ways that you can promote and maintain oneness in marriage?
- 6) What does God say about divorce?

II. Importance Of Personal Spiritual Growth In Marriage

Read Matthew 7:24-27 and answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the descriptions of the two men? How are they the same and how are they different?

Session 2 - continued

- 2) What are the outcomes of the two different ways of life?

- 3) What are some of the pressures that "beat" against our lives and families?

- 4) What are some practical ways that we can stimulate our mates to walk with God?

III. Local Church Involvement

Read Ephesians 5:31-33 and Hebrews 10:25 and answer the following questions:

- 1) Why is active involvement in a church so important for a healthy growing marriage?

- 2) What are some of the practical benefits of church involvement to your marriage?

IV. Assignment

- Complete Session 3
- Do something special before the next session to show appreciation for your fiancé, but don't tell them what it is.

Session 3

Communication & Conflict Resolution

I. Discover How You Communicate

- 1) What are the strengths of the way in which you communicate with each other?

- 2) Do you mostly talk about ideas, people or things? Why?

- 3) Which of you converses more easily? Why is this so?

- 4) Which of you shares your feelings more easily?

- 5) How do you respond to one another when negative feelings are shared?

- 6) What are some of the hindrances to good communication?

- 7) How can we become better listeners?

II. Seven Principles of Good Communication

1. Talk, talk some more. Keep talking.
2. Listen responsively.
3. Express opposing ideas lovingly and listen to opposing ideas openly.
4. Agree not to have personal secrets.
5. Don't answer feelings with fact.
6. When surface communication reaches a dead-end, look for root causes.
7. Keep open the option of bringing in a third party.

III. Scriptural Insight On Communication

Look up and read:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. Proverbs 12:18 | _____ | 4. Proverbs 21:23 | _____ |
| 2. Proverbs 18:2 | _____ | 5. Proverbs 27:14 | _____ |
| 3. Proverbs 18:13 | _____ | 6. Proverbs 28:13 | _____ |

Session 3 - continued

Conflict Resolution

I. The Nature Of Conflict

- 1) How were conflicts resolved in your family as you grew up?

- 2) What are some wrong responses to conflict?

- 3) List some issues and differences in perspective that have caused conflict in your relationship?

- 4) Are there any unresolved conflicts in your relationship at the present time?
How can they be resolved?

II. Principles of Problem Solving

1. Don't get personal
2. Understand each other's preferences
3. Cool off first
4. Don't stay angry
5. Compromise, don't win

III. Scriptural Insight on Conflict Resolution

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Proverbs 16:23-24 | _____ | 4. Proverbs 15:28 | _____ |
| 2. James 1: 2-4 | _____ | 5. I Corinthians 13:4-7 | _____ |
| 3. James 1: 19-20 | _____ | 6. Ephesians 4:26-27 | _____ |

IV. Assignment

-Complete Session 4

Session 4

Family Matters

I. In-laws

Read the following passages:

Genesis 2:24

Ephesians 6:1

Genesis 26:34-35; 27:46

Ruth 2:11-12; 4:14-15

- 1) What do these passages tell you about relationships with in-laws?

- 2) What problems did you have relating to your father and mother as you grew up?
How do you think these problems will affect your marriage?

- 3) Describe your relationship with the members of your family now.
What fears do you have of your fiancé's becoming part of your family?

- 4) How do you think your prospective in-laws view you?

- 5) What one thing about your partner's parents do you dislike?

- 6) What three things about your partner's parents do you really appreciate?

- 7) What customs in your home differ from those of your fiancé's home?

- 8) List one thing you can do to strengthen your relationship with your in-laws.

Session 4 - continued

II. Children

Read Psalm 127 & 128

- 1) How do these passages describe children?

- 2) How did Jesus view children? Mark 10:13-16

- 3) How many children do each of you want? Why?

- 4) Read Proverbs 3:11-12 and Proverbs 23:13-14.
What do these passages say about discipline?

- 5) How will you respond if you are unable to have children?

III. Assignment

- Complete Session 5
- Complete Role Concept Comparison Chart

Session 5

Differences & Roles

I. Husband's Role

Read Ephesians 5:25-33

1) What do you think it means to love your wife?

2) What are some hindrances to loving your wife?

II. Wife's Role

Read I Peter 3:1-6

1) What do you feel that it means to submit to your husband?

2) What are some hindrances to submitting to your husband?

Session 5 - continued

III. Decision-Making

Read I Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:22-24

1) Who made most of the decisions in your family?

2) What procedures will you follow when there is an impasse and a decision must be made?

3) How will you decide upon responsibilities for household chores?

4) In what areas of life will you have the freedom to make decisions without consulting with your spouse?

Session 5 - continued

Your Role Concepts Comparison Chart

1-strongly agree; 2-mildly agree; 3-not sure; 4-mildly disagree; 5-strongly disagree

- 1) The husband is the head of the home. 1 2 3 4 5
- 2) The wife should not be employed outside the home when there are children. 1 2 3 4 5
- 3) The husband should regularly help with the dishes. 1 2 3 4 5
- 4) Husband and wife should plan the budget and manage the money together. 1 2 3 4 5
- 5) Neither husband nor wife should purchase an item costing more than \$50 without consulting the other. 1 2 3 4 5
- 6) The father is the one primarily responsible for disciplining the children. 1 2 3 4 5
- 7) A wife who has a special talent should have a career. 1 2 3 4 5
- 8) It is the wife's responsibility to keep the house neat and clean. 1 2 3 4 5
- 9) The husband should take the wife out somewhere at least twice a month. 1 2 3 4 5
- 10) It is the husband's job to do the yard work. 1 2 3 4 5
- 11) Children should be allowed to help plan family activities. 1 2 3 4 5
- 12) Children develop better in a home with parents who are strict disciplinarians. 1 2 3 4 5
- 13) Money that the wife earns is "Her money". 1 2 3 4 5
- 14) The husband should have at least one night out a week with his friends. 1 2 3 4 5
- 15) The wife should always be the one to cook 1 2 3 4 5

IV. Assignment

- Complete Session 6

Session 6

Finances

I. Questions

- 1) Whose money is it? The husband's, the wife's, or both?
Who will determine how it is spent?

- 2) Who will pay the bills and handle the checkbook? Who will buy the groceries?

- 3) Who is responsible if you run out of money?

- 4) How much will you give away and who will decide where it goes to?

- 5) What things will you borrow money for?

II. Scriptural Principles

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Deuteronomy 8:17-18 _____ | 9. Philippians 4:11-13 _____ |
| 2. Proverbs 3:9-10 _____ | 10. Matthew 6:24 _____ |
| 3. Malachi 3:10 _____ | 11. Ecclesiastes 5:19 _____ |
| 4. Proverbs 21:20 _____ | 12. I Timothy 6:17-19 _____ |
| 5. Proverbs 13:11 _____ | 13. Proverbs 11:24-25 _____ |
| 6. Proverbs 22:7 _____ | 14. Matthew 6:30-33 _____ |
| 7. Romans 13:6-8 _____ | 15. Luke 6:38 _____ |
| 8. I Timothy 6:8-10 _____ | 16. II Thessalonians 3:7-12 _____ |

Session 6 - continued

III. Budget

Develop a budget for the first year of married life.

Fill out respective pricing guides and have fun seeing how close you can get.

Session 6 - continued

For The Man

How much would you have to pay for the following items?

- 1) one loaf of honey whole wheat bread
from Great Harvest _____
- 2) one pound of golden delicious apples _____
- 3) one chocolate cake mix _____
- 4) one large jug of Tide laundry detergent _____
- 5) a haircut and style at Fantastic Sam's _____
- 6) one scarf at Kohl's Department Store _____
- 7) one 8x10 picture frame from WalMart _____
- 8) one greeting card at Hallmark Store _____
- 9) one hair straightner from Target _____
- 10) a purse at JCPenney's _____
- 11) one pair of dress shoes/heels at Payless Shoes _____
- 12) mascara from Shopko _____
- 13) one bottle of 100 count vitamins
from Mother Nature Foods _____
- 14) swim suit from Younkers _____
- 15) one pair of jeans from Kmart _____
- 16) a 4 piece set of dishes from Sears _____
- 17) one tube of lipstick from Macy's _____

IV. Assignment

Do Session 7

Session 6 - continued

For The Woman

How much would you have to pay for the following items?

- 1) one quart of motor oil _____
- 2) nice gas grill from Menards _____
- 3) laptop from Best Buy _____
- 4) desktop computer from Best Buy _____
- 5) 42 inch flat screen TV from Sears _____
- 6) movie on Blueray from Walmart _____
- 7) one set of 4 screwdrivers at Blain's Farm & Fleet _____
- 8) Playstation 3 _____
- 9) fishing rod and reel from Scheels _____
- 10) men's haircut plus tip at Sports Clips _____
- 11) video game – xbox 360 _____
- 12) 4 new tires plus labor from Sears _____
- 13) 2 tickets to a professional baseball game _____
- 14) hunting rifle from Gander Mountain _____
- 15) one 15 pound bag of Kingsford charcoal _____
- 16) one 16 hole round of golf at Hickory Hills _____
- 17) one table saw from Sears _____

IV. Assignment

Do Session 7

Session 7

Making Marriage Great

I. Joined For A Great Task

1) God's Purpose For Marriage

Read Genesis 1:26-30

What was God's original purpose for marriage?

How does this purpose relate to us today?

2) Teamwork In The Work Of God

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together." Psalm 34:3

Read Acts 18:2,26; Romans 16:3-5; II Timothy 4:19; I Corinthians 16:19

Notice the various places that Aquila and Priscilla lived and the time span of their lives.

Notice also the order of their names in these passages.

How did Aquila and Priscilla serve Paul?

What characterized their lives?

II. The Role Of Hospitality

Read Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; I Peter 4:9

Why is hospitality such an important virtue in the eyes of God?

What are some practical ways you can use your home to benefit others?

III. Assignment

Set up time for discussion about your sexual relationship

Wedding Program Planner

Date: _____

Place: _____

People Involved

Maid of Honor: _____

Best Man: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Groomsmen: _____

Flower Girl: _____

Ring Bearer: _____

Attendants: _____

Ushers: _____

Minister: _____

Guest Book: _____

Punch: _____

Musicians: _____

Photographer: _____

Caterer: _____

Reader: _____

General Program

Prelude

Processional

Welcome

Prayer

Song

Scripture Reading(s)

Meditation

Wedding Vows

Exchange of Rings

Lighting of Unity Candle

Song

Pronouncement

Presentation

Processional

Note: This program is only a traditional format. There is great flexibility to change and add touches that each family would like.

Scripture Passages For Weddings

Genesis 1:26-28	Male and female He created them
Genesis 2:18-25	Man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife
Ruth 1:16	Where you go I will go
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	Two are better than one...a cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	Many waters cannot quench love
Matthew 7:24-27	The wise man built his house on a rock
Matthew 19:4-6	They are no longer two but one
I Corinthians 13	Love is patient, love is kind...
Ephesians 3:14-19	Every family derives its name
Ephesians 4:29;32	Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouth; be kind and compassionate to one another
Ephesians 5:22-31	Wives respect, husbands love
Colossians 3:12-17	And beyond these things put on love
Hebrews 13:4-6	Marriage should be honored by all
I John 4:7-12	Love is from God

The Wedding Vows

Option A

I _____ take thee _____ to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

Option B

I _____ take you _____ to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Option C

I _____ take thee _____ to be my wedded wife/husband, and I do promise and covenant before God and thee witnesses, to be they loving and faithful husband/wife, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

Option D

_____, I promise with God's help to be your faithful husband/wife to love and serve you as Christ commands, as long as we both shall live.

Option E

_____, I promise before God, our family, and friends, to be your loving and faithful husband/wife, to share my life with you, win wealth and in poverty, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad times, for as long as we both shall live.

Option F

I _____ take you _____ to be my wife/husband, and I promise before God and these friends, that I will share my life with you in all love and honor, in all faith and tenderness, through joy and sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

Option G

I _____ take you _____ to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Option H (said by both)

I draw you into my very being to share with you life's sorrows and joys. I promise to respect you and to be respected by you, to forgive you and be forgiven by you, to instill hope in you and be hope by you. I promise to accept the mystery of your uniqueness and to love you as an equal. Through these acts of teaching and learning, we will grow toward each other.

Exchange of Rings

Option A

Bless, O Lord, this ring, that he/she who gives it and she/he who wears it may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor, unto their life's end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(said by both) With this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

Option B

Eternal God, we pray for your blessing upon these rings that they may be a permanent reminder of holy promises and steadfast love. Bless those who wear them that they may remain in your favor throughout all their earthly life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(said by both) This ring is the sign of my promise, and I give it to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Option C

Eternal God, bless these rings that as _____ and _____ wear them they will be reminded of their faith in you and their promises to each other. Let these rings be symbols of a deep and unending love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

_____, this ring is the sign of my love and faithfulness, and I give it to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Option D

What symbols do you give of these holy promises?

(said by both) This ring. Receive this ring as an outward pledge and symbol of my promise to fulfill these vows which we have taken.

Wedding Budget Worksheet

	Budget	Cost
Invitations:	_____	_____
Wedding License:	_____	_____
Clothing:		
Bride	_____	_____
Groom	_____	_____
Church:	_____	_____
Minister:	_____	_____
Flowers:		
Corsage	_____	_____
Church	_____	_____
Photographer:	_____	_____
Musicians/DJ:		
Ceremony	_____	_____
Reception	_____	_____
Rehearsal:		
Dinner	_____	_____
Gifts	_____	_____
Reception:		
Site	_____	_____
Food/Beverage	_____	_____

Premarital Covenant

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his body in a way that is holy an honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God...For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject men but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

There is a tremendous temptation for excessive physical involvement of a couple during courtship. When sexual activity is entered into before marriage it tends to break down trust between the couple. We strongly recommend that you enter into the following Premarital Covenant below and remain accountable to your mentor couple throughout engagement to uphold this Covenant. This Premarital Covenant was taken from The Marriage Savers Organization – Potomac, MD.

Level of Physical Involvement:

1. Look
2. Touch
3. Lightly holding hands
4. Continually holding hands
5. Light Kiss
6. Strong Kiss
7. French Kiss
8. Fondling breasts
9. Fondling sexual organs
10. Sexual intercourse

Premarital Covenant

I _____ (man) and I _____ (woman) pledge to honor God by maintaining a godly standard for our relationship during our engagement. I commit to stopping at Level ___ above (Maximum 7) in our physical interaction until we are married. We will uphold this standard by being accountable to _____.

Signed: _____ & _____

Mentor Couple: _____ Date: _____

Cedarcreek Wedding Costs

Building Rental

Building Usage for Wedding Ceremony
Maximum Capacity 250 people

\$300 Cedarcreek Members

\$500 Non-members

Includes dressing rooms and sound technician.

Note: We do not have a room or kitchen space for wedding receptions.

Pastoral Services:

\$200 for pastor to do the wedding and the 8 pre-marriage counseling sessions.

For out of town weddings, the couple also should pay for a motel room for the pastor.