

Pre-Marriage Counseling

Session 1: Marriage - God's Design

A. Basics (Genesis 2:18-24)

- Adam received a wife from God
- Leave your lifestyle of being dependent on your parents (v24)
- Marriage is permanent. God hates divorce (Mark 10:9)
- Hindrances to becoming married

B. Family of Origin: Discovering Roots

- Taboos; patterns; expectation; protocols negative cycles

B. Realistic Expectations of Marriage (Haggai 1:9)

- Discuss realistic & unrealistic expectations
- Only Christ can fully fill the void in your heart (Ps 42, John 6:35)

Homework: Review questions on Family of Origin (Attach 1)

Session 2: Godly Roles in Marriage

A. Christian Husband

- Biblical headship and leadership (Eph 5:21-33. 1Cor 11:3)
- Loves wife unconditionally; present her radiant (Eph 5:21, Col 3:19)
- Live with your wife in an understanding way (1Pet 3:7)
- Serves his wife; understand/provides her needs (1Tim 5:8)

B. Christian Wife

- Helper to her husband (Gen 2:18, Prov 31:10-31)
- Respects her husband (Eph 5:33)
- Submit to her husband's leadership (Col 3:18-19, Eph 5)
- Loves her husband; accept him as imperfect (Titus 2:4)

C. Personal Convictions – when you disagree (1 Cor 8-10, Rom 14)

Homework: Prepare a rough BUDGET & SCHEDULE (Attach 2&3)

Session 3: Communication/Fair Fighting

A. Anger and Careless Words (Ephesians 4:25-32)

- Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry
- No unwholesome talk; Do not give the devil a foothold
 - What are words to avoid?
- Tame tongue: bits, small rudder, fire (James 3:3-6)
- Speak the truth in love (v.15)
- Build each other up (v.29)

B. Fights and Quarrels (James 4:1-10)

- Where do fights and quarrels come from?
- Humility: the attitude/posture that helps you communicate?

Homework: Review Discussion on Communication & Conflict Resolution (Attach 4&5)

Session 4: Money, Schedule & Other topics

A. Budget your Money (2 Cor 8:1-15)

- What does "grace" (v. 1, 6, 7) have to do with giving?
- Build treasures in heaven (Matt 6:21)
- Budget: A plan for saving and spending money (Prov 21:5)
- Manage your assets (Prov 27:23-27)

B. Schedule

- Have a plan how to spend your time (Prov 24:27)
- Commit to the Lord whatever you do (Prov 16:3)
- A season for every activity (Ecc 3:1)

C. Children (Timing)

Note: a separate men/women session will discuss other topics