



# The Fulfilled Marriage

**THE THREE DOORS**  
FINDING DEEPER LOVE  
and FULFILLMENT in  
YOUR MARRIAGE

**LEADER'S GUIDE**

**TED DEAN**

FULFILLEDMARRIAGE.COM

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Group Leaders Guide

# The Fulfilled Marriage

The Three Doors

*A Six Session Study for Engaged  
and Married Couples*

Ted Dean

Fulfilled  Marriage

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# Thank you

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal”.*

Matthew 6:19-20 New International Version (NIV)

Dear Fellow Workers,

We want to thank you sincerely for volunteering to serve as Group Leaders for *The Fulfilled Marriage* marriage enrichment class. By joining in the effort to help others with their marriages, you demonstrate the value you give to your own relationship with your spouse. The good news is that experience tells us that your effort to help others will undoubtedly result in significant blessings for your own marriage, as well as each and every one of your students.

Your effort will bless all of your students' lives, marriages, and families. You may never hear of all the good that has transpired and will continue to transpire throughout their lives, but rest assured it has and will continue to take place. I know of no more important issue for Christians that God has revealed in His Word than the importance of Christ-centered marriages and families. Healthy marriages and families are the building blocks for a healthy and productive church, and a powerful element in revealing Christ to our neighbors and our society.

Often, we thank God who has blessed us with you and the others whom have joined with us, and for the many lives and marriages that have and will continue to be blessed through your efforts. The dedication and the large amount of time you will sacrificially give to help “your couples” is certainly adding treasure into your heavenly “hope chest”. It is our prayer, that God will bless you, your marriage, and your family as you continue to dedicate your time and effort for others.

God bless you, ,  
Ted and Esther



**Section One: Leader's Skills and Solving  
Problems**

## Getting Started



*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

Matthew 13:44 New International Version (NIV)

*The Fulfilled Marriage, the Three Doors*, in both the book and this *Leaders Guide* are designed to maximize a couple's ability to make permanent changes and improvements in their marriage through methodology that leads them to self-discovery. Your challenge as leader is to guide and inspire them to commit to the effort required to make their own discoveries. This will enable them to implement the changes that are essential for them to have a marriage that is consistent with God's original intentions and design. Fulfillment in marriage for the Christian only comes when a couple is walking hand in hand with each other, and with their creator.

By reading, answering questions and completing guided discussions with their spouse, the students will begin to experience the blessing of building their marriage according to God's original and enduring requirements. In a real sense, it is hoped that they will be taking over the ownership and responsibility for their marriage in an entirely new way, God's way. As they see the great potential for fulfillment in their and their spouse's lives, as well as discovering how they can bring God's kind of meaningful love into their marriage, great positive and life-long continuing change and improvement will be possible.

As a Class Leader, your job is to do all that you can to encourage and guide your students "to do the work". The class guide has been designed to provide you all the direction you will need to be successful. It has been adapted from the highly effective *A Marriage Made in Heaven*, church-based marriage enrichment course (see Appendix A) which has been designed to be a Transformational Learning (TL) model. For *A Marriage Made in Heaven* to be introduced to a local church requires a three-day facilitator training class in order for it to be made available for a congregation's use. This simplified manual, if followed closely will enable you to serve effectively as guide and encourager without any formal training. Experience tells us that the more you stick to the script, the



more benefit your students will have from the course. Resist the desire to teach, don't deprive your students of self-discovery and a deepening personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The most important aspects of this seven-week experience are encouraging your students to begin regular "Couples Prayer", and motivating them to do their homework and conduct their discussions exactly as explained in their books. Rest assured, as you serve as leaders and models for your students, you can expect to experience the same benefits as your students..

This leaders' guide is divided into three parts.

- Section One: Leader's Skills and Solving Problems, gives you direction for administering the course, and provides you all the information you need to become a successful class leader.
- Section Two: Initial Class Meeting, provides a detailed script in order to instruct the students in the requirements to participate successfully in completing the course, and to meet each other for the first time.
- Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7, gives you all the specific, easily followed scripts needed for each session.

Before you begin your class, read through this guide highlighting those items of interest and information that you feel will be especially important as you conduct your class. Several items in this section need to be shared with the class and can be simply read out loud so you don't need to memorize or paraphrase them. Our hope is that this guide will simplify your effort, and make your participation as a leader fulfilling and enjoyable.

***Fulfillment in marriage for the Christian only comes when a couple is walking hand in hand with each other, and with their creator.***

### **Encouragement**

Always, in every class session, encourage students to do the work, and to pray together in "Couple's Prayer" so as to be fully prepared spiritually and intellectually for the next class. Remind them, that they are accountable to their spouse and to their classmates to give their very best effort. One of the best ways you can positively influence your students is to serve as a model by diligently doing your homework so that you will be able to bless the class when you and your spouse share deeply, always first in every classroom session.

As class leaders, it is important that you maintain control of the class by preventing negative influences that will disrupt the harmony of the class. When a disruption occurs, it is possible to turn it around in such a way that it actually becomes a positive event and learning experience. Although you may encounter students who do not want to follow the instructions, it is important that they be corrected in such a way that ends the negative activity as soon as possible but does not diminish or embarrass the the student.



## Section One: Leader's Skills and Solving Problems

Look at these opportunities for you to demonstrate and model for the class how extending grace can help them in difficulties and in disagreements that life brings to all couples. Below are listed the kinds of issues that you may experience in leading a class.

### How it Works

Please review the graphic below. Moving from left to right in the graphic:

1. Discovery phase - the individual is required to read the weekly assignment and answer all questions, as well as marking anything they consider new or important.
2. The Couples Discussion phase - During this phase couples discuss all the questions, discuss the topics assigned in their book, and discuss anything they have marked as important.
3. Class phase - During this phase each student answers questions, and participates in class activities.

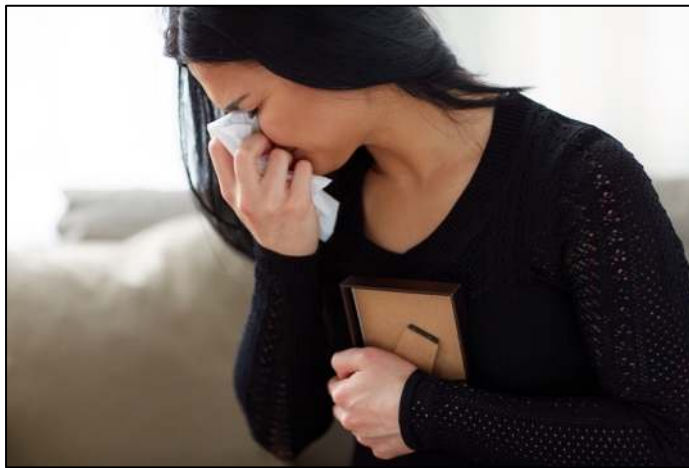


## **Solving Class Participation Problem**

Occasionally a student's actions or words may interfere with or negatively impact the class. Below are listed several of the most common issues that you might need to act upon in order to bring the class back into harmony. Although these behaviors are negative, with the correct handling they can become positive not only for the class member but also for those who have caused the problem. Remember love always rules, and your loving responsive action is the key to solving the problem and encouraging the students to continue to share deeply.

### **Emotional Sharing**

**"I have been carrying this so long."**



**Action:** When you discern that a student has been deeply affected during their sharing, it is possible that other members of the class may desire to intervene while this positive experience is taking place within the sharer. It is important that you do what is necessary in order to avoid a “shut down” of the student sharer.

The two most common interruptions come from those trying rescue the sharer in one of the two following ways: A rescuer may try to comfort their classmate or try to bring humor into the situation to lighten the atmosphere. Encourage the speaker to continue sharing and ignore the incident until after class. After class, thank the sympathetic class member for caring about their fellow student, but remind them they could keep the sharer from experiencing what is needed for him or her, and for their marriage. Next class, you can remind the entire class the same thing, and remind them that the class is confidential and they all should feel that they can share deeply without worry.

There is no place during sharing for humorous comments from the class. Each student has signed up for the class so that they can improve their marriage and not to be entertained or discouraged to share deeply. If this takes place, ignore the humorist, focus on the sharer and say, "When you are ready, you can resume". After the class, tell the offender that you know they care for the sharer, but tell them they could keep the sharer from experiencing what is needed for him or her, and for their marriage.

## Section One: Leader's Skills and Solving Problems

### Resistent to Sharing

"I don't want to share".



**Action:** Remind them they agreed to share before classes started. Then ask them if they might be more relaxed if they share from their chair but only allow this alternative once. Remember, the formality of standing in front of the class, demonstrates the solemnity of working to improve their marriage, and the stress encourages the students to do their weekly homework with dedication to insure they are prepared.

### Homework Skippers

"I have nothing to say about that".



**Action:** Immediately after they attempt to answer the questions, stand and affirm them for sharing only, and then ask them to explain what they learned in their readings and discussions. Then ask them if they completed their homework for the session. If they did not, tell them to do it this week so they can explain it better, and remind them they still need to do the next week's session's homework also.



**Endless Talkers**  
**Yak, yak, yak**



**Action:** When a sharer has used up their time, wait until they take a breath, quickly stand up, begin applauding and say "thank you" and introduce the next speaker. It might be good that you prewarn the class that you will strictly enforce time limits, not to offend but to keep to the schedule and insure everyone has time. If a student is experiencing and expressing an important emotional breakthrough, you may extend their time.

**Spouse Attackers**  
**"Its their faul, not mine"!**



**Action:** Immediately stop sharer and say, "Please forgive me for not making it clear, that in the class we do not talk about our spouse but only about our own experience. Please start over again".

Section One: Leader's Skills and Solving Problems

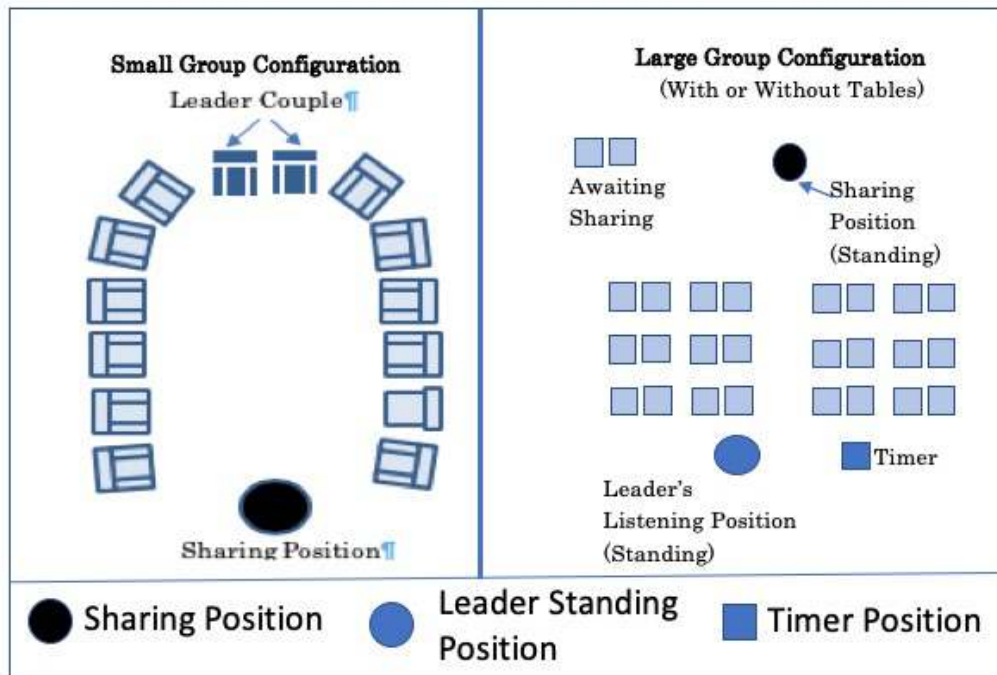
**Class Configurations**

Below you will find two examples of ideal class configurations. These recommended class configurations are designed for you to maintain control and be visible to all the students. They also provide a sharing position for each student that will allow all of their classmates a clear view and a location within hearing distance.

The Small Configuration is designed for use in homes. I recommend no more than six couples plus the class leader couple. The larger configuration is for a classroom setting and is modeled after the classroom that is used for the church-based *A Marriage Made in Heaven Classes*. We recommend no more than twelve couples for this configuration due to the amount of time that the students that will be sharing.

In the event that you desire to conduct this class with more than twelve couples, as in a large Sunday school, I suggest that you randomly select no more than twelve students each class to share by drawing names during the class. That uncertainty of not knowing if their names will be called encourages students to do all their work. That way, all students will have to come prepared to share.

**Recommended Classroom configurations:**



## Developing and Maintaining a Safe Environment



Your goal is to create a positive and safe environment, one that encourages each student to be open to share anything. The class must function as an effective Support Group offering positive reinforcement for pain or difficulty that many couples experience.

- Create a positive environment.
- Model right behaviors and confidence.
- Explain the essential need for confidentiality
- Explain consequences of breaking of the confidentiality rule.
- Do not allow anyone into the classroom except your students, including church leaders or pastors.
- Cover door windows, if applicable
- Place a large “Class in Session/Do not Disturb” sign on door.

## What Class Leaders Should Bring to the Classroom

- Refreshments for Initial Class Session only (Optional)
- Refreshment Schedule Form: Appendix C (Optional)
- Name tags and lanyards. Just prior to class place them on seats moving them each week so student couples sit next to a different couple each week. As you distribute badges, this is also a good time to pray for each individual by name before they arrive. Collect the name tags at the end of class.
- A piece of paper with the sharer questions written out. Questions are located in each sessions script. The students will utilize this paper when sharing to read each question before answering it. They may

## Section One: Leader's Skills and Solving Problems

not use their book or notes for answering the questions. Answering the question from their hearts will help both them and every member of the class.

- Class in Session /Do Not Enter Signs and Paper or cardboard to cover Door Window (if needed)
- Stop Watch or Phone with Timer
- Tissues (Place within reach of sharer)

### **The Holy Spirit and You**

*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

John 14:26 New International Version (NIV)

We must remind ourselves as we serve as class leaders, that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate agent of change for our students and not us. Likewise, it is the Holy Spirit that anoints your efforts, fills your classes with love, and brings wisdom to each leader and student. The Holy Spirit can also give you discernment in identifying issues that may be keeping certain students from moving away from their past, and thus brings them emotional healing necessary for a good marriage.

Keeping on schedule is important so that there is adequate time for all the sharing and exercises, and after class for the personal ministry and prayer. After the completion of each week's prescribed classroom activities, you should make yourselves available for those students that request prayer or help in some other way. God entrusts and equips you to bless and shower your students with His love. You can be assured that you are serving needs that are dear to God's heart.

Humility is the key for us all to be empowered by God through the Holy Spirit to love and help our students. Ask God to fill you with His love to overflowing so that you will be able to share it with all of your students. The only requirement for this is that you have a deep thirst for more of what God has for you.

### **Keeping Control**

Remember, the course is designed for each person and each couple to discover for themselves what changes they need to make to improve their relationship with God and each other. In order to accomplish that, they must do their session assignment, including answering their questions and conducting their discussions. They also need to begin to develop their own version of "Couples Prayer".

The classes held for each session encourage each couple by illustrating they are not alone in having the need to improve their marriage. It also helps insure that they will do their homework diligently because they know that they will be sharing each week. In the sharing session it is common that students are helped when another sharer brings light and understanding to an issue that another couple is having trouble with.



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In order to complete all the requirements for class it is imperative that you keep strictly to the script, and that you strongly operate within the timelines for student's sharing and all of the time given to other scripted activities. This insures nothing is skipped, and students find security in a formal framework.

**Always keep to the script and the timing of every event!**







## Section Two: Initial Class Session (The Script)

(Estimated Time 30-45 minutes)

*A week before class starts, you should have a "preliminary" meeting to pass out books and share with students what they can expect participating in the class.*

### **Materials for facilitators to bring to Initial Class Meeting**

- Student Books
- Business cards or simple small note with your contact information; one per student
- Pens .
- Inexpensive Refreshments (optional)

### **Elements and Goals for Initial Class Meeting**

- 1 Hour Maximum
- Begin with prayer. Have everyone introduce themselves and tell how long they've been married.
- Distribute books
- Explain the importance of doing all their homework and being prepared to share.
- Explain Classroom Procedures and Rules.
- Go over home work for the week, using books and providing page numbers to insure clear understanding of requirements. They are required to read whole chapters, answer questions, and hold guided discussions with their spouse.



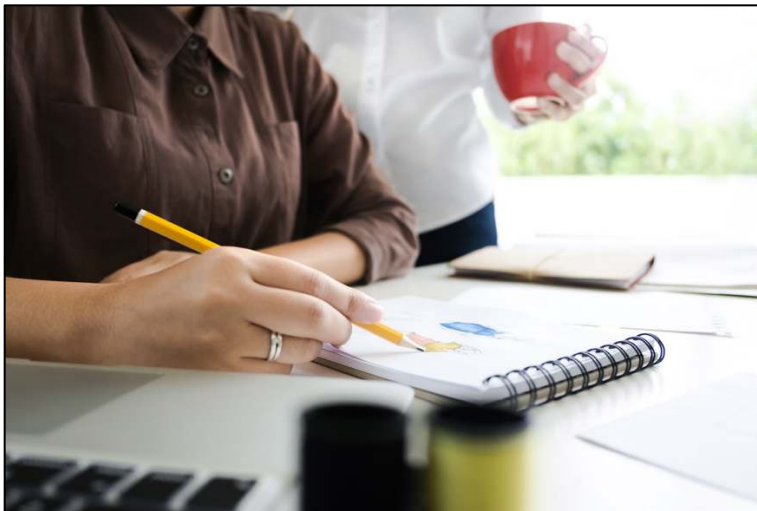
**“Lord, I don’t want my marriage to be what I think it should be,  
I want it to be everything that you designed it to be.”**

## Section Two: Initial Class Session (The Script)

### A Godly Marriage is... (share with class)

- God's institution designed to produce mature children of God to fulfill His plans for eternity.
- Designed for the continuation of the church and all of mankind.
- The environment for emulating God's character through a life of sacrificial love and on-going forgiveness.
- By example, to direct our children and non-Christians to the New Covenant and model the Kingdom of God on the Earth.
- Institution designed by our loving God, to be "very good", providing fulfillment, love, joy, romance and pleasure.

### Class Actions, and Recommendations



- Explain the importance of both wife and husband doing their best to both get all they can out of the class and not be a disappointment to their spouse.
- Go over and explain homework assignment for first class.
- Explain, and have students sign or initial, *Agreement for Peaceful Discussion* located in their text.
- Strongly encourage establishment of daily "Couples Prayer".
- Tell them everyone will share in class.
- Students will answer two to three questions from each chapter, number dependent on class time and number of sharers.
- Questions will come from the questions and/or from couple's discussion items at the end of each chapter.
- Notes and books cannot be consulted or read from when sharing.
- When sharing, avoid criticism of your spouse.
- No one is forced to share more openly than they feel comfortable.
- No one should discuss what takes place or is said in class with anyone outside of classroom. Misunderstanding can cause someone to not take the class who could benefit from doing so.



- Explain, and have students sign and witness Class Agreement Form. Appendix in both leaders guide and in student's books.
- Have Students carefully read and initial their *Contract for Spousal Discussions* (Appendix in students' books).
- Explain activities that interfere with sharing. As the class goes on, students will become more comfortable with their classmates, and often share deeply. With this deep sharing, emotions may cause a person to appear to be overcome. This is a good thing and often a sign of growth, and healing. Students should not intervene. Please do not rescue a speaker. Give them time to recover and space to handle the moment. Also avoid making humorous comments to lighten the mood of a sharer.

### Class Confidentiality



Explain that confidentiality is essential for a group where participants are sharing about their lives and marriages. In order to have a safe environment, everything said in the group must stay in the group.

If anyone has a habit of gossiping, please for the class's sake, see leader after this session. The class cannot tolerate any violation of confidentiality. Without confidentiality, couples will not share deep issues that bring healing and wholeness.

If anyone happens to violate their pledge to maintain confidentiality, it is suggested that they be required to apologize to the class, and the class should vote whether they should be reinstated. If even a single class member feels insecure if they stay, the offender and their spouse will be required to leave the class permanently. Without an environment where all students can share personal issues freely, growth will not take place.

## Section Two: Initial Class Session (The Script)

### **Homework Assignment and Ending Class Session**

- Instruct students to read the Introduction and Chapters one and two, marking items of interest, answer all questions at the end of each chapter, and spend time together discussing the questions at the end of both chapters. Utilize the book's discussion items and anything that you marked while reading the text.
- If they have any questions during the week, instruct them to contact you.
- Ask if there are any questions.
- Ask if you have their permission to make a list of names and numbers to share with each class member.
- Remind them to pray together, at least a few minutes every day.
- Facilitator ends in prayer.





# **Section Three: Class Learning Sessions** **(Scripts 1-6)**

## Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

### **Session 1 Script**

#### **Chapters 1 and 2: The Three Doors, and A New Perspective for Your Marriage**

##### **Materials:**

- Your Student Guide and Facilitator Manual
- Attendance record
- Extra pens
- Name Tags
- Refreshments (by volunteer couple)
- Question sheets for sharing session
- Kleenex
- Do not Disturb sign for door
- Cover the door window and tape (if applicable)
- Small pieces of paper for student to use in the couples prayer exercise this week only

##### **Getting Started: (4 Minutes)**

- Opening Prayer
- Encouragement and This week's Scripture:

*You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.*

Psalm 30:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

You can write the scripture on the board before class if you have one available.

##### **Homework Review Questions: (6 Minutes)**

Ask for volunteers to answer the following questions. Don't forget to affirm each answering person.

1. What does "blind sided" mean in the context of marriage? How do you think you can you avoid this tragedy in your marriage?
2. In what ways do you think Christians have an advantage over nonbelievers in their marriages?

##### **Reminders**

- Explain that no one should criticize their spouse by their words or innuendo.
- Remind that we are not to "rescue" the sharer. (Behavior was explained in the Pre-Session)



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- Explain note taking. Then explain that everyone should write down what they thought was important from each speaker sharing, or reminders to pray for someone. **Important:** Note what your spouse shares especially.
- Remind each person will have 2½ minutes to share with a 2-minute warning by a hand wave from the Timekeeper. Ask them to read the question and then answer.
- Begin the sharing session with the Facilitator first, then the assistant. The Facilitator affirms the assistant. The assistant affirms the facilitator. Remember to use a timer to insure sharer does not exceed time frame. Model how you want them to answer the questions (thoroughly, deeply and transparently)
- Explain the whole class should applaud to give affirmation and support to each sharer.
- Insure students do not bring notes or their book to sharing position.
- Facilitator introduces each sharer in turn with a brief phrase of encouragement i.e. “Tom please share your wisdom with us”, “Lily we’d love to hear from you”
- Applaud when each one sits down and affirm each one in turn. (Be sure to make eye contact), introduce the next sharer promptly.

**Sharing Session: (85 Minutes) Questions for Sharing Session** - Give them the questions on a sheet of paper for them to read and answer in front of the class.

- 1. Esther and Ted decided to do something to enrich their marriage each year. What ideas did you come up with that you might want to do annually to enrich your marriage?
- 2. What new understanding did you receive about God's plan for marriage after reading Chapters 1 and 2?

**Break: (if applicable)**

**Affirmation Exercise: (5 minutes):**

- Looking at their notes page, have class members identify one of the classmates and tell what they said that touched them or gave them insight.
- Facilitators model by starting off if no one begins.

**Prayer Exercise: (9 minutes)**

- Explain that each person will print a heartfelt short (one or two sentence) prayer for their marriage while **not** listing their names.
- Pass out papers and give them 3 minutes to compose and then collect.
- Shuffle prayers and pass one to each student.
- Facilitator begins prayer by asking the Lord to answer all of these prayer requests.
- Chose a row to start reading prayers.

**Review Next Week’s Homework: (2 Minutes)**

- Go over homework assignment for Session two. Instruct students to read Chapters 3 and 4, marking items of interest, answer all questions at the end of each chapter, and spend time together discussing the questions



### Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

at the end of both chapters. Utilize the books discussion items and anything that you marked while reading the text.

#### **Facilitator Wrap up and Final Prayer: (3 minutes)**

- Pass out the class roster, and ask members to pray for each other during the week.
- Share, if you feel the Holy Spirit has a message for all or individuals.
- Remind them of your availability for prayer after dismissal.
- Ask a student to pray for class.



## **Session 2 Script**

### **Chapters 3 and 4: God Really Loves Us, and God in Us Working**

#### **Materials:**

- Your Student Guide and Facilitator Manual
- Attendance record
- Extra pens
- Name Tags
- Refreshments (by volunteer couple)
- Question sheets (if blackboard unavailable)
- Kleenex
- Do not Disturb sign for door
- Cover the door window and tape (if applicable)
- One sheet per student to use in the couples exercise this week only.

#### **Getting Started: (4 Minutes)**

- Opening Prayer, you or a volunteer.
- Encouragement and This week's Scripture:

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8 New International Version

#### **Homework Review Questions: (6 Minutes)**

Ask for volunteers to answer the following questions. Don't forget to affirm each answering person.

1. What role does the marriage relationship play in a child's spiritual development?
2. As you read about the "poisoned well", did you identify cultural influences that negatively impact your walk with the Lord and/or your marriage?

#### **Sharing Session: (85 Minutes)**

- Begin the sharing session with the Facilitator first, then the assistant. The Facilitator affirms the assistant. Model how you want them to answer the questions (thoroughly and transparently)
- Explain that applause gives affirmation and support.

### Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

- Call for each row at a time (2 people) to occupy the sharing chairs at the front **without bringing their books**.
- Introduce each one in turn with a brief phrase of encouragement i.e. “Tom please share your wisdom with us”, “Lily we’d love to hear from you”
- Applaud when each one finishes and affirm each one in turn. (Be sure to make eye contact) Ask for volunteers to fill the awaiting sharing chairs.
- Explain that no one should criticize their spouse by their words or innuendo. Remember you cannot fix your spouse but you are to fix yourself.
- Remind that we are not to “rescue” the sharer. (Behavior was explained in the Pre-Session)
- Explain note taking. Then explain that everyone should write down what they thought was important from each speaker sharing, or reminders to pray for someone. **Important:** Note what your spouse shares especially.
- Remind each person will have 2½ minutes to share with a 2-minute warning by a hand wave from the Timekeeper. Ask them to read question and then answer.

#### **Questions for Sharing session:**

1. After reading about making a fresh start, do you think it is possible for you to put all the negatives in your past behind and start afresh?
2. Discuss some steps that might increase harmony in your marriage.
3. How will fulfilling your role as a husband/wife help to become more Christlike?

#### **Break: (if applicable)**

#### **Affirmation Exercise: (5 minutes):**

- Looking at their notes page, have class members identify one of the classmates and tell what they said that touched them or gave them insight.
- Facilitators model by starting off if no one begins.

#### **Prayer Exercise: (9 minutes)**

1. Have each class member briefly write down something in their life they have decided to eliminate.
2. Pass out papers and give the class 3 minutes to compose their comments.
3. Ask them to fold their paper in half. Then collect and pass out the papers.
4. Lead a prayer that each class member will be able to eliminate the unwanted items from their lives.

#### Review Next Week’s Homework: (2 Minutes)

- Go over homework assignment for Session 3, Chapters 5 and 6.

#### **Facilitator Wrap up and Final Prayer: (3 minutes):**

- Share, if you feel the Holy Spirit has a message for all or individuals.
- Remind them of your availability for prayer after dismissal.
- Ask a student to pray for class.



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### **Session 3 Script**

#### **Chapters 5 and 6: According to God's Plan and Personal Transformation**

#### **Materials:**

- Your Student Guide and Facilitator Manual
- Attendance record
- Extra pens
- Name Tags
- Refreshments (by volunteer couple)
- Question sheets for sharing
- Kleenex
- Do not Disturb sign for door
- Cover the door window and tape (if applicable)
- One sheet per student to use in the couples exercise this week only.

#### **Getting Started: (4 Minutes)**

- Opening Prayer
- Encouragement and This week's key Scripture:
  - *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8 New International Version (NIV)
  - Write the scripture on the board (if you have one)

#### **Homework Review Questions: (6 Minutes)**

Ask for volunteers to answer the following questions. Don't forget to affirm each answering person.

1. What you both do regularly to put God first within your home life?
2. Describe a time you have had adversity in your life and it has caused you to grow in your relationship with the Lord.

#### **Sharing Session: (85 Minutes)**

Begin the sharing session with the facilitator first, then the assistant. The facilitator affirms the assistant. Model how you want them to answer the questions (thoroughly and transparently)

Explain that applause gives affirmation and support.

### Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

- Call for each row at a time (2 people) to occupy the sharing chairs at the front **without bringing their books**.
- Introduce each one in turn with a brief phrase of encouragement i.e. “Tom please share your wisdom with us”, “Lily we’d love to hear from you”
- Applaud when each one finishes and affirm each one in turn. (Be sure to make eye contact) When that row is finished, call the next row.
- Explain that no one should criticize their spouse by their words or innuendo. Remember you cannot fix your spouse but you are to fix yourself.
- Remind that we are not to “rescue” the sharer. (Behavior was explained in the Pre-Session)
- Explain note taking. Then explain that everyone should write down what they thought was important from each speaker sharing, or reminders to pray for someone. **Important:** Note what your spouse shares especially.
- Remind each person will have 2½ minutes to share with a 2-minute warning by a hand wave from the Timekeeper. Ask them to read question and then answer.

#### Questions for Sharing session:

1. What changes in your life will you make to live life at God's level of normal?
2. In reading about forgiveness, has the Lord prompted you to forgive anyone?
3. How has anger impacted your life and/or marriage?

#### Break: (if applicable)

#### Affirmation Exercise: (5 minutes):

- Looking at their notes page, have class members identify one of the classmates and tell what they said that touched them or gave them insight.
- Facilitators model by starting off if no one begins.

#### Prayer Exercise: (9 minutes)

Instruct the couples to spend the next few moments discussing a specific case in which they need to forgive someone, and pray together. Encourage them to examine again the 5 steps on pg. 111 in completing the process.

#### Review Next Week’s Homework: (2 Minutes)

- Go over homework assignment for Session 4.



**Facilitator Wrap up and Final Prayer: (3 minutes):**

- Share, if you feel the Holy Spirit has a message for all or individuals.
- Remind them of your availability for prayer after dismissal.
- Ask a student to pray for class.

## Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

### Session 4 Script

#### Chapters 7 and 8 of Part Two: The Design Unfolds and The Marriage Covenant

##### Materials:

- Your Student Guide and Facilitator Manual
- Attendance record
- Extra pens
- Name Tags
- Refreshments (by volunteer couple)
- Question sheets
- Kleenex
- Do not Disturb sign for door
- Cover the door window and tape (if applicable)
- One sheet per student to use in the couples exercise this week only.

##### Getting Started: (4 Minutes)

- Opening Prayer
- Encouragement and This week's key Scripture:
- *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8 New International Version (NIV)
- Write the scripture on the board (if you have one)

##### Homework Review Questions: (6 Minutes)

Ask for volunteers to answer the following questions. Don't forget to affirm each answering person.

1. Describe God's purpose in creating marriage.
2. What is the role of sacrifice in marriage?

##### Sharing Session: (85 Minutes)

- Begin the sharing session with the Facilitator first, then the assistant. The Facilitator affirms the assistant. Model how you want them to answer the questions (thoroughly and transparently)
- Explain that applause gives affirmation and support.
- Call for each row at a time (2 people) to occupy the sharing chairs at the front **without bringing their books.**
- Introduce each one in turn with a brief phrase of encouragement i.e. "Tom please share your wisdom with us", "Lily we'd love to hear from you"



## THE FULFILLED MARRIAGE (Group Leaders Guide)

- Applaud when each one finishes and affirm each one in turn. (Be sure to make eye contact) When that row is finished, call the next row.
- Explain that no one should criticize their spouse by their words or innuendo. Remember you cannot fix your spouse but you are to fix yourself.
- Remind that we are not to “rescue” the sharer. (Behavior was explained in the Pre-Session)
- Explain note taking. Then explain that everyone should write down what they thought was important from each speaker sharing, or reminders to pray for someone. **Important:** Note what your spouse shares especially.
- Remind each person will have 2½ minutes to share with a 2-minute warning by a hand wave from the Timekeeper. Ask them to read question and then answer.

### Questions for Sharing session:

1. What new understanding did you gain when reading about God's design for marriage?
2. God designed man and woman with a need for a companion. What advantages does your companion/spouse bring to your life?

### Break: (if applicable)

### Affirmation Exercise: (5 minutes):

- Looking at their notes page, have class members identify one of the classmates and tell what they said that touched them or gave them insight.
- Facilitators model by starting off if no one begins.

### Prayer Exercise: (9 minutes)

1. Have the group break up into groups of 4-6. ask each group to appoint a leader for the purpose of keeping the group on track.
2. Have each person share the one thing that they are struggling with in the class. Have the group pray for each person.

### Review Next Week's Homework: (2 Minutes)

- Go over homework assignment for Session 5.

### Facilitator Wrap up and Final Prayer: (3 minutes):



### Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

- Share, if you feel the Holy Spirit has a message for all or individuals.
- Remind them of your availability for prayer after dismissal.
- Ask a student to pray for class.



## **Session 5 Script**

### **Chapters 9 and 10: Learning to Love and Talk, No Lets Communicate**

#### **Materials:**

- Your Student Guide and Facilitator Manual
- Attendance record
- Extra pens
- Name Tags
- Refreshments (by volunteer couple)
- Question sheets
- Kleenex
- Do not Disturb sign for door
- Cover the door window and tape (if applicable)
- One sheet per student to use in the couples exercise this week only.

#### **Getting Started: (4 Minutes)**

- Opening Prayer
- Encouragement and This week's key Scripture:
- *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8 New International Version (NIV)
- Write the scripture on the board (if you have one)

#### **Homework Review Questions: (6 Minutes)**

Ask for volunteers to answer the following questions. Don't forget to affirm each answering person.

1. What does affectionate love mean to you, and how can you show this kind of love to your spouse?
2. In what ways can you insure peaceful discussion with your spouse?

#### **Sharing Session: (85 Minutes)**

- Begin the sharing session with the Facilitator first, then the assistant. The Facilitator affirms the assistant. Model how you want them to answer the questions (thoroughly and transparently)
- Explain that applause gives affirmation and support.
- Call for each row at a time (2 people) to occupy the sharing chairs at the front **without bringing their books.**

### Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

- Introduce each one in turn with a brief phrase of encouragement i.e. “Tom please share your wisdom with us”, “Lily we’d love to hear from you”
- Applaud when each one finishes and affirm each one in turn. (Be sure to make eye contact) When that row is finished, call the next row.
- Explain that no one should criticize their spouse by their words or innuendo. Remember you cannot fix your spouse but you are to fix yourself.
- Remind that we are not to “rescue” the sharer. (Behavior was explained in the Pre-Session)
- Explain note taking. Then explain that everyone should write down what they thought was important from each speaker sharing, or reminders to pray for someone. **Important:** Note what your spouse shares especially.
- Remind each person will have 2½ minutes to share with a 2-minute warning by a hand wave from the Timekeeper. Ask them to read question and then answer.

#### **Questions for Sharing session:**

1. Why is it important to be completely truthful in your marriage?
2. In what ways will you show admiration to your spouse?
3. In what ways does an atmosphere of affection benefit your marriage?

#### **Break: (if applicable)**

#### **Affirmation Exercise: (5 minutes):**

- Looking at their notes page, have class members identify one of the classmates and tell what they said that touched them or gave them insight.
- Facilitators model by starting off if no one begins.

#### **Prayer Exercise: (9 minutes)**

1. Have each couple turn their chairs facing each other, and draw close so that her knees are against his chair.
2. Have them join hands.
3. Instruct the wives to say "I love you because...." and time them for 1 minute.
4. Now ask the husbands to do the same and time them for one minute.

#### **Review Next Week’s Homework: (2 Minutes)**

- Go over homework assignment for Session 6.

#### **Facilitator Wrap up and Final Prayer: (3 minutes):**



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- Share, if you feel the Holy Spirit has a message for all or individuals.
- Remind them of your availability for prayer after dismissal.
- Ask a student to pray for class

## Section Three: Class Learning Sessions 1-7 (Scripts)

### **Session 6 Script**

#### **Chapters 11, 12 and 13: Lets Be Fair, Couples Prayer and Spiritual Warfare and Putting it All Together**

#### **Materials:**

- Your Student Guide and Facilitator Manual
- Attendance record
- Extra pens
- Name Tags
- Refreshments (by volunteer couple)
- Question sheets
- Kleenex
- Do not Disturb sign for door
- Cover the door window and tape (if applicable)
- One sheet per student to use in the couples exercise this week only.

#### **Getting Started: (4 Minutes)**

- Opening Prayer
- Encouragement and This week's key Scripture:
  - *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 2:8 New International Version (NIV)
  - Write the scripture on the board (if you have one)

#### **Homework Review Questions: (6 Minutes)**

1. What does it mean to be fair in the workloads of the home, and what are you planning to do to make that happen?
2. Financial problems lead to distress in many marriages. What are you going to do to safe guard your marriage from this stress?

Ask for volunteers to answer the following questions. Don't forget to affirm each answering person.

#### **Sharing Session: (85 Minutes)**



## THE FULFILLED MARRIAGE (Group Leaders Guide)

- Begin the sharing session with the Facilitator first, then the assistant. The Facilitator affirms the assistant. Model how you want them to answer the questions (thoroughly and transparently)
- Explain that applause gives affirmation and support.
- Call for each row at a time (2 people) to occupy the sharing chairs at the front **without bringing their books**.
- Introduce each one in turn with a brief phrase of encouragement i.e. “Tom please share your wisdom with us”, “Lily we’d love to hear from you”
- Applaud when each one finishes and affirm each one in turn. (Be sure to make eye contact) When that row is finished, call the next row.
- Explain that no one should criticize their spouse by their words or innuendo. Remember you cannot fix your spouse but you are to fix yourself.
- Remind that we are not to “rescue” the sharer. (Behavior was explained in the Pre-Session)
- Explain note taking. Then explain that everyone should write down what they thought was important from each speaker sharing, or reminders to pray for someone. **Important:** Note what your spouse shares especially.
- Remind each person will have 2½ minutes to share with a 2-minute warning by a hand wave from the Timekeeper. Ask them to read question and then answer.

### Questions for Sharing session:

1. What does the concept of sacrificial love mean to you within your marriage?
2. As a result of this class, what has been the most important issue that has impacted you and your marriage? Explain.

### Break: (if applicable)

### Affirmation Exercise: (5 minutes):

- One at a time, have each class member stand.
- Ask the class to speak out the positive characteristics they see in the class member.
- Facilitators model by starting off if no one begins (example: sincere, loving, dedicated etc.)

### Facilitator Wrap up and Final Prayer: (3 minutes):

- Share, if you feel the Holy Spirit has a message for all or individuals.
- Joining hands, the facilitators bless and pray for all the class members.

# Appendices

## **Appendix A: The A Marriage Made in Heaven Course**

*A Marriage Made in Heaven* is a church based nine-week marriage enrichment program that has been developed to integrate vital teachings from the Word of God utilizing a scripturally based student guide, and two highly successful texts and a workbook by Dr. Willard F. Harley, Jr. This course has been designed to be both transformational, enlightening, and enabling in order to ensure that significant and necessary improvements take place both in individual lives and marriages. The course has been highly successful with a reported significant improvement in marriages by over ninety-five percent of participants.

*For those who have completed the course over the last eight years they have indicated an over ninety-five percent success rate in "significantly improving their marriages".*

Each class is led by a pastor-approved and fully trained Facilitator Couple that has received unique training to facilitate this "Transformational Learning (TL) course".

### **A Marriage Made in Heaven**

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

**Jeremiah 29:11 New International Version (NIV)**

*The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

**Genesis 2:18 New International Version (NIV)**



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## A Marriage Made in Heaven

### What is a Marriage Made in Heaven?

- Bible-based and God-centered.
- Empowered by God's Spirit, the Word, and your commitment to do marriage God's way.
- Combines the Student Guide's biblical teachings with each of Dr. Willard Harley's easily understood stories and practical methods.
- Your commitment to do the all the work, and embrace the discoveries you make will transform your marriage to be a true Marriage Made in Heaven.



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## A Marriage Made in Heaven

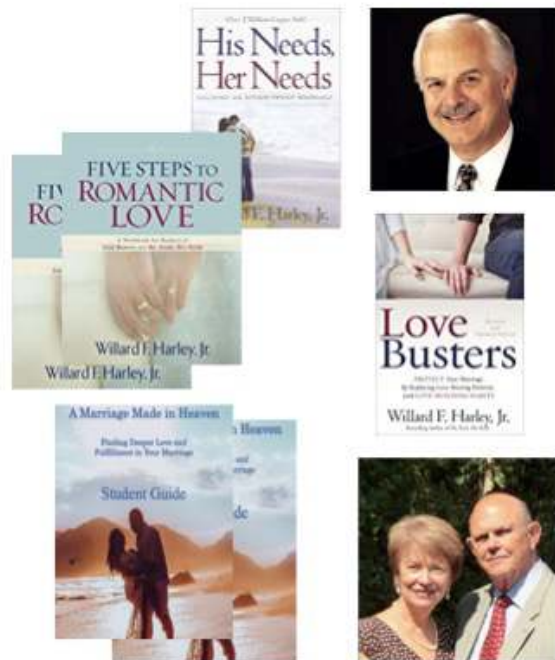
### Couples Materials

By Dr. Willard Harley

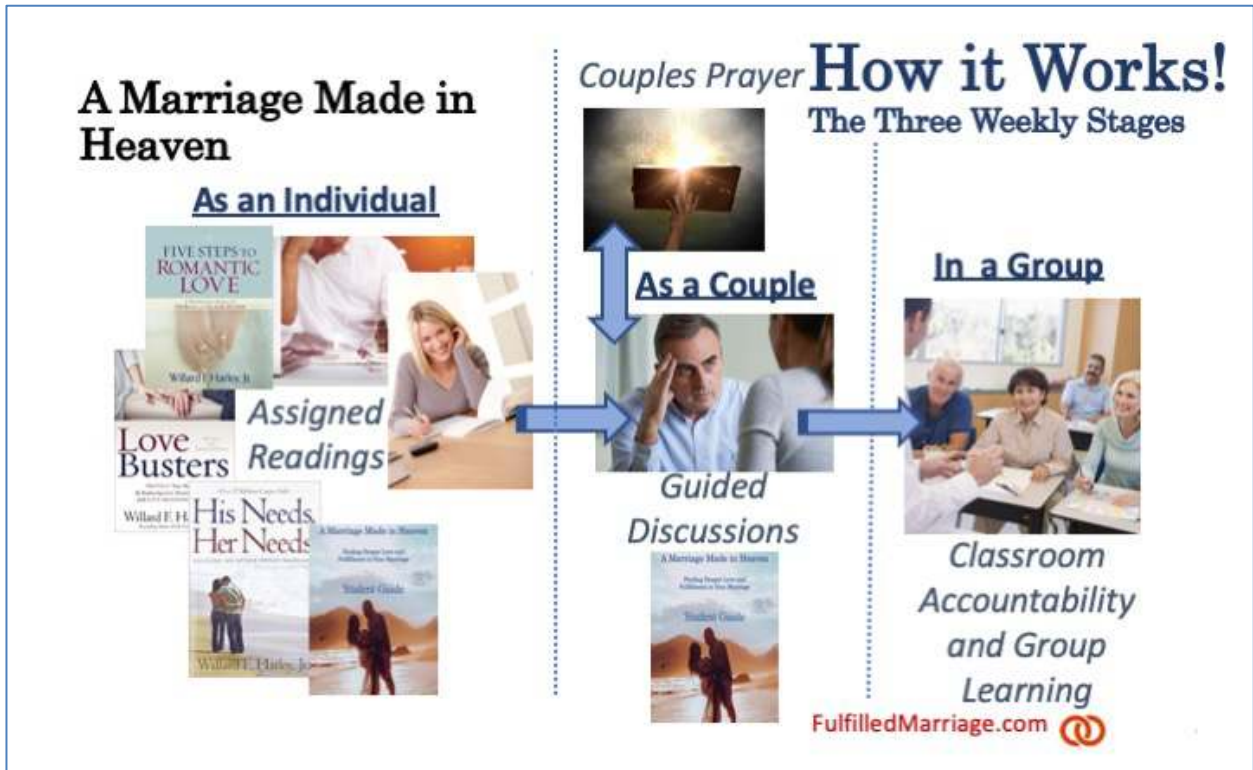
- *His Need, Her Needs*
- *Love Busters*
- *Five Step to Romantic Love Workbook* (2 Copies)

By Ted and Esther Dean

- *A Marriage Made in Heaven Student Guide and Workbook* (2Copies)



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## A Marriage Made in Heaven

Setting Aside  
Nine Special  
Weeks for  
Your Marriage



## Appendices

### ***A Marriage Made in Heaven is Designed to be Church Based***

- because children need a loving mom and dad in the home
- because marriage is God's chosen illustration to give understanding of the relationship between Jesus and his church.
- because marriage is a spiritual issue
- because marriage is the primary path for development of disciples, and mature children of God
- because it is the churches' responsibility to protect Holy Matrimony

***Results: Lives changed, better and happier spouses, loving parents, better church members..***

The program is designed to be self-supporting and has been successfully operating within several local church congregations with no cost to any of those congregations. Costs for Dr. Harley's student materials are reasonably priced and can be purchased in a variety of methods through several providers. Two printed Student Guides, as well as a full set of student and facilitator materials will be provided at facilitator training events and are provided for a reasonable fee for the pastor's approved facilitator couple who participate in facilitator training.

### ***What is different about A Marriage Made in Heaven?***

- This course is designed to incorporate a Transformational Learning Process (TLP) where participants discover truths about themselves, and put improved behavior into practice immediately.
- It gives a strong biblical-based foundation to build on, providing power to change, and the tools to grow relationships.
- It requires students to give priority and time to the marriage throughout the entire 9 week, 63-day period. This allows participants to learn and implement change week-by-week, not after a teaching, or a series of lectures but in the discovery of truth. The course period is also long enough to begin the process of creating good habits, and breaking bad ones. Working together a couple travels on a journey of mutual self-discovery, and begins to reap the rewards of their effort early in this life changing experience!

**For further information: see: [FulfilledMarriage.com](http://FulfilledMarriage.com)**



**Appendix B: Contract for Spousal Discussions**

**James 3:18** (NIV) *Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

**Proverbs 29:11** (NIV) *A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back.*

1. Encourage your spouse to be completely honest with you.
2. When your spouse speaks, give full attention with your eyes and body language.
3. Listen carefully and with an unbiased mind so that you can clearly hear what is being said.
4. Determine before the conversation that you will avoid anger, belittling, sarcasm, gestures, or other activity that will hamper communication.
5. Realize that your spouse's feelings and thoughts are real and should not be discounted.
6. When your spouse finishes talking, ask questions if you need further understanding or clarification. You can also repeat their thoughts to show you were listening.
7. The goal of discussing issues within our marriage is not proving we are right, or fixing our spouse's problem, but to come to a win-win solution that will enhance our marriage.
8. "Taste your words before you speak them!"
9. Grant grace always.

If possible, pray with your spouse before your conversation begins. If this is not possible, pray in your spirit (no vocalization) before you speak. "May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart, be pleasing in your sight, Lord."

***I understand and whole-heartedly agree with and will do my utmost to follow these guidelines and recommendations for discussing issues with my spouse.***

Husband Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Wife Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Appendices

Appendix C: Refreshment Sign-up Sheet

Refreshment Cost should be kept at a minimum. No more than ten minutes should be allowed for break.

Session	Name
One	
Two	
Three	
Four	
Five	
Six	



**Appendix D: Sample Prayer Journal**

<b>Prayer Date</b>	<b>Prayer Request</b>	<b>Date Answered</b>

## Appendices

