



Counseling Center

OF GRACE FELLOWSHIP

Helping each other please God

Pre-Engagement Counseling Schedule

CLH: Christian Living in the Home, Dr. Jay Adams
MGW: Preparing for Marriage God's Way, Dr. Wayne Mack
Pre-engagement sermon set, Pastor Brad Bigney
Intended for Pleasure, Dr. Ed Wheat

1. A couple interested in marriage will contact Linda Sprague in the church office (371-7880 or lindasprague@graceky.org). They are asked if either have been previously married so that the proper intake forms are prepared for them. They are asked to attend a Grace Fellowship Sunday service and join a Grace small group while they are in counseling.
2. **Important Note:** We ask that you NOT have a date for the wedding ceremony already set before we begin the counseling process. If you do already have a date set, we ask that you stop working towards that date and delay setting a date until at least 3 or 4 of your counseling sessions have been completed successfully. Our desire is that this counseling process will help you determine whether or not you should get married to this person at this time. To already be working on wedding plans at the same time as you work through the counseling is premature and distracting. We do not want anyone to feel the pressure to go through with the wedding just because plans have already been made, money spent, invitations sent out, etc. in spite of issues that have been discovered in counseling that need to be addressed prior to marriage. Not setting a date can avoid embarrassment if through the counseling process you determine that you want to delay getting married, or if it becomes clear that you should not marry this person.
3. The couple will receive the counseling intake forms and pre-engagement counseling brochure. Upon completion of the intake forms, they are returned to the office. The Counseling Team determines the counselor best suited and available to meet with the couple. The counselor will contact the couple to set up the first session. The first session will be to discuss the booklet by David Powlison, ***“Pre-Engagement: 5 Questions to Ask Yourself”***. The booklet is available in the church office or the Resource Center. Read the booklet, underline the 10 most important points and discuss them together as a couple and come ready to talk about these with the counselor.
4. After the first session, the counselor determines whether the couple will proceed with pre-engagement counseling; the counselee couple should contact the church office to purchase the necessary materials for the counseling. Approximate cost of the materials is \$100.
5. After the counseling sessions with the counselor have been completed, the couple should make an appointment with the pastor to summarize where they are in their intent to proceed with marriage and to begin to discuss the wedding ceremony.

Session #1**TOPIC**

“Pre-Engagement: 5 Questions to Ask Yourselves”

HOMEWORK

Discuss the 10 most important points and any questions that may need to be addressed.

Session #2

Bible Basics
About Marriage

HOMEWORK

1. Read & identify the three most important concepts in Chapters 1&2 of CLH and write them on a sheet of paper
2. MGW Ch. 1-2 – answer questions & then discuss it together before meeting with your counselor
3. Listen to “What Happened to My Dream?” from *Avoiding the Deadly Sins*

Session #3

Priorities and
Marriage

HOMEWORK

1. MGW Ch. 3-5 – answer questions & then discuss it together before meeting with your counselor
2. Write out your own letter (MGW pg. 33)
3. Listen to “Can’t You Fix Our Marriage Fast?” from *Avoiding the Deadly Sins*
4. Read CLH Ch. 4 and underline the 10 most important sentences to you.

Session #4

Biblical
Communication
(4-Rules)

HOMEWORK

1. MGW Ch. 6-7 – answer questions & then get together and discuss it before meeting with your counselor
2. Listen to “Speaking to the Heart of Your Mate” Part 1 & 2 from *Built to Last*
3. Read CLH Ch. 3 and underline the 10 most important sentences to you.

Session #5

Biblical Role of the
Husband

HOMEWORK

1. Read CLH Ch. 7 and underline the 10 most important sentences to you
2. MGW Ch. 9 – answer questions & then get together to discuss it before meeting with your counselor
3. Listen to “How to Really Love Your Wife” from *Built to Last* series and complete homework.

Session #6

Biblical Role of the
Wife

HOMEWORK

1. Wife-I Peter 3:1-6 outline these verses
2. CLH Ch. 6
3. MGW Ch. 10 – answer questions & then get together and discuss it before meeting with your counselor
4. Listen to “How to Really Love Your Husband” from *Built to Last* series and complete homework.

Session #7

Financial
Stewardship
and Conflict

HOMEWORK

1. MGW Ch. 8 and 11 - answer questions & then get together and discuss it before meeting with your counselor
2. Complete budget sheet
3. Listen to “Why is There so Much Conflict Between Us?” from *Avoiding the Deadly Sins* series

Session #8

Biblical Principles
of Sex

HOMEWORK

1. MGW Ch. 12
2. Listen to “Sex: Great Gift or Great Grief” from *Built to Last* series

Session #9

(post-marital)

Review
6 wks after wedding

HOMEWORK

MGW Ch. 14

Session #10

(6 month
check-up)

Rearing Children
God’s Way

HOMEWORK

1. MGW Ch. 15
2. Read CLH Ch. 8

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES TO PURCHASE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

1. Software for your computer:

Quicken Delux, Intuit; P.O. Box 3014; Menlo, CA 94026; (415)322-0573

MicroSoft Money, see a software distributor

Quick Verse, for personal & family Bible study by Parsons Technology

2. Books to read and discuss:

Intended for Pleasure, Dr. Ed Wheat and Gaye Wheat, Fleming H. Revell, Grand Rapids, MI

Strengthening Your Marriage, Wayne A. Mack, P & P Publishing, Phillipsburg, New Jersey

Shepherding A Child's Heart, Tedd Tripp, Shepherd Press, Wapwallopen, PA

A Godward Life, John Piper, Mutnomah Pub.

The Excellent Wife, Martha Peace, Focus Publishing Inc., Bemidji, Minnesota

Disciplines of a Godly Man, R. Kent Hughes, Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill.

The Complete Husband, Lou Priolo, Calvary Press

Sacred Marriage, Gary Thomas, Zondervan