

How to Plan for Successful Marriage Enrichment Events

➤ Should we have a Retreat away or Conference at the Church?

1. Benefits of a Marriage _____:

- 1) Relief from the Daily _____
- 2) Meeting _____ Needs
- 3) Deeper Levels of _____
- 4) Expectations of _____

2. Benefits of a Local Church Marriage _____:

- 1) _____ Cost
- 2) Less Time _____
- 3) _____ at Church
- 4) Greater _____
- 5) Couples are at church _____ morning

➤ Things to keep in mind:

1. Take away _____ for not attending.
2. Ensure there is a regular _____ on marriage enrichment
3. _____ a Team of Ten

➤ Team of Couples _____

(More detailed descriptions can be found in Achieving God's Design for Marriage, [Pt. 1, Chap. 2]; page references included after each job description)

1. _____ Couple (II-2,3 + Checklist in App. A)

- 1) Recruit & work closely with Marriage Event Team of Five or Ten Couples
- 2) Chair the Planning meetings
- 3) Ensure good planning and promotion is being done
- 4) Coordinate and orchestrate actual event
- 5) Oversee adequate follow-up after event

First Planning Meeting Should Include:

- 1) Choose Date at least 4 months off , if possible
- 2) Date & location – conference or retreat or one-day event?
- 3) Projected Attendance: _____
- 4) Child care provided at church?
- 5) Will church budget cover speaker fee?

- 6) Will church outreach budget cover costs of couples who attend on Invest & Invite promotion?
- 7) Develop a Schedule for event
- 8) Meals: Begin with Banquet? Other meals
- 9) Choose Speakers and suggested topics
- 10) Do timeline for responsibilities

2. _____ Couple (II-13,14)

- 1) Ask help from Team of Ten
- 2) Get Senior Pastor support from the pulpit
- 3) Invest and Invite
- 4) Flyers or brochures with tear-out registration forms
- 5) Testimonies during Sunday services
- 6) Direct mail
- 7) Bulletin announcements
- 8) Announcement in church newsletter
- 9) Posters
- 10) Outreach tool

3. _____ Couple (II-6,14-15)

- 1) Work with Promotion Leader Couple to ensure a registration form is included as part of the brochure or flier
- 2) Work with Coordinator Couple to develop accounting procedures for registration deposits and fees.
- 3) Schedule couples to work at the Registration Table after Sunday morning services at least 4 Sundays prior to retreat

4. _____ Couple (II-9)

- 1) Work with rest of Team couples to determine costs involved in each of their areas in order to set registration fee for attending couples
- 2) Work with rest of Team couples to help everyone stay within budget
- 3) Work with Coordinator Couple and Church to determine a budget for the event

5. _____ Couple (II-9)

- 1) Determine with whole Team how many meals will be included and if Banquet will be included
- 2) Determine with Finance couple a Food budget
- 3) Plan meals – prep and serving

6. _____ Couple (II-5)

- 1) Prepare welcome bags or baskets for each couple attending. Purchase designer bags and/or small baskets and fill them with things like 2 plastic cups, napkins, 1 small bottle of sparkling cider, 1 small votive candle, book of matches, fancy candy, etc. Use your imagination.

- 2) Recruit a prayer partner (or prayer couple) for each couple attending the retreat.
- 3) Place a note of welcome in each couple's basket or bag. This note should contain a warm welcome and the identity and address of their prayer partners. There is great power in prayer.

7. _____ Couple (II-7)

- 1) Recruit childcare personnel (Paid and unpaid) – making sure all church rules as to childcare requirements are met.
- 2) Work with Registration Couple so that promotion material has childcare info included
- 3) Communicate adequately with all parents and childcare workers, so that everyone knows what to expect.

8. _____ Couple (II-5,6)

9. _____ & _____ Couple (II-5)

- 1) Purchase snacks & drinks within event budget or arrange for attending couples to bring non-spoilable snacks
- 2) Setup table at event and keep supplied and clean.

10. _____ Sale Table Couple (II-6,7)

➤ Other important things about the Conference/Retreat:

1. _____: (II-9)
2. Keeping on _____: (II-18)
 - 1) Importance of Group Discussion with Sessions and Couple Sharing Times
 - 2) Feedback: Use 3x5 cards & get what they liked best and a positive suggestion for improvement.
3. It's over—what now? (II-19)
 - 1) Importance Of On-Going Marriage Emphasis
 - 2) Benefits Of Regular Marriage Support Groups (II-20)

Resources:

- Achieving God's Design for Marriage by Harold & Bette Gillogly (Joy Publishing – 40% discount at www.marriages.net/gto-store with coupon code “SMMS9”)
- Experiencing Oneness by Harold & Bette Gillogly (Joy Publishing)
- The Homebuilders Couples Series (Family Life)
- Marriage Mentoring DVD series w/workbooks (Les and Leslie Parrott)