

## Why Marriage Preparation?

Our society requires intensive training to receive a driver's license for one simple reason: things happen when we allow someone to drive a car without first learning the critical driving skills. The same happens when we allow a couple to be married without learning the critical relational skills necessary for a great marriage.

It is our desire at First Baptist Church of Davis that every person united in marriage through our church recognizes the importance of having Jesus involved in their relationship. We are committed to seeing couples off to a good start in their marriage far beyond the church doors.

## Objectives

- ❖ *Learn how to make a good decision about marriage, how to evaluate your relationship and how to discern God's will.*
- ❖ *Talk about things you never dreamed you would discuss but always knew you should.*
- ❖ *Anticipate issues ahead of time rather than being caught off guard after you are married.*
- ❖ *Know, apply and experience God's Word as it relates to engagement and marriage.*
- ❖ *Practice and apply foundational skills you will need to build your marriage.*
- ❖ *Acquire some essential communication and conflict resolution skills.*

## How Do I Begin?

Contact a pastor at FBC and let him know of your desire to take part in FBC's premarital mentoring program. He will schedule a time to meet with you where he will provide you with an overview of the program and the resources you will need.

## Time to Prepare

First Baptist Church has established a minimum **four month** waiting period to adequately prepare couples for marriage.

## FOCCUS Relationship Inventory

To help you prepare for your unique marriage, you'll take a FOCCUS Inventory to help you focus on areas of strength as well as areas needing growth and attention in your relationship.

## Six Private Sessions

- ❖ **Session 1** – *Personal interview and course overview, including reviewing the FOCCUS Relationship Inventory, highlighting key issues in your relationship. The personal interview covers the history of your relationship, your spiritual background, and some moral guidelines.*
- ❖ **Session 2** – *“Why Marriage?”*
- ❖ **Session 3** – *“God's Equation for Marriage: When One Plus One Equals One”*
- ❖ **Session 4** – *“Authentic Communication: Avoiding the Post-wedding Letdown”*
- ❖ **Session 5 & 6** – *“Roles and Responsibilities: Moving beyond Cultural Stereotypes”*  
*“Money, Money, Money”*  
*“Intimacy: Sexual Communication in Marriage”*

## Cost

The total cost of the pre-marital program is \$60.00. This covers the FOCCUS Relationship Inventory test and various program materials, including two “Preparing for Marriage” workbooks by Dennis Rainey.


## **After the Wedding**

We want to continue helping you in your marriage, even after the ceremony and honeymoon are done. At First Baptist we offer an annual marriage conference, 1 to 2 more private sessions to check-up on how your new life together is going, and a library of great books on everything from communication and raising kids, to finances. We recommend taking advantage of these available resources.

## **Expectations of a Couple Being Married at First Baptist**

The following expectations and considerations are intended to provide you with advance information that will help you decide if you would like to have an FBC pastor perform your wedding. This information will also help avoid possible embarrassment or misunderstanding, and will enable the pastor's performance of your wedding to have the greatest possible benefit for the couple involved.

1. The man and the woman contemplating marriage must each have a vital growing relationship with Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. If either or both do not have a relationship with Christ, but desire to know how to, the pastor will be glad to share God's plan of salvation.
2. The couple's goal for marriage must not be just "two people living for each other," but, instead, "two believers whose intention is to live for God in this uniquely fulfilling and mutually profiting relationship ordained by Him."
3. If either person has been married and subsequently divorced, this information and its circumstances will be discussed with the pastor. This will be done confidentially during your first meeting with the pastor. The individual situation will be given consideration regarding the pastor's freedom of conviction to take part in the wedding.
4. The couple shall agree to take part in the entire premarital mentoring process under the pastor's supervision. To allow for adequate scheduling, at least four months advance notice is needed. The mentoring process must be completed two weeks prior to the wedding. The pastor's participation in the ceremony will be conditioned upon the successful completion of the mentoring. Reading assignments, assessment tests, and other expectations will be required and kept confidential. Responsibility for initiating appointments for these sessions rests with the couple.
5. Because of the Biblical teaching on the importance of sexual purity, and because obedience in the physical relationship is crucial to preparation for a godly marriage, the couple shall agree to abstain from sexual intercourse at least from the commencement of premarital mentoring until the wedding day.
6. Flexibility of the ceremony format and departure from tradition will be mutually agreed upon by the couple and pastor. The content of the wedding message will be at the discretion of the pastor.
7. Because of the biblical teaching on fellowship and discipleship, if the couple is not currently attending a home church, they will be required to attend worship services at FBC while waiting for the wedding date.



# *Pre-Marriage Program at First Baptist Church of Davis*

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