

# Marriage Mentoring

Marriage is a radical idea. It is a special gift that God has given us. It is more than just a partnership where we have many things in common. It is God's idea. Success in marriage involves more than just having special feelings for one another. Almost all couples who marry think that they are going to be happy together and have a long-term marriage, yet a huge percentage end in failure. Engagement is a difficult time. Many couples feel the pressure to have the perfect wedding. It is much more important that you prepare for an enduring marriage. Investing time and energy in preparing for your marriage before it starts is the best way to build a strong foundation for a lifetime of unlimited intimacy.

## The Mentoring Program

There are three distinct parts to the Christ Chapel Mentoring program. You will meet in the home of a mentor couple for approximately six sessions of 2-3 hours each. The mentor couple has been married at least 15 years and has exhibited the traits and skills necessary to have a great marriage. The cost of the program is \$110.

### Part 1:

It begins with the FOCCUS inventory program. FOCCUS stands for Facilitating Open Couple Communication and Understanding. Each couple is asked to fill out a questionnaire of 156-189 questions. This inventory is sent to FOCCUS, Inc. It is scored and graphed and returned to the church. Most couples agree that the questionnaire helps them to talk about things that they often did not know they needed to talk about. It provides a personalized profile of their relationship strengths and challenges. By using the inventory, the engaged couple becomes an active participant in the marriage preparation process rather than a passive recipient in a classroom. This makes your mentoring "couple specific" tailored to your needs. The topics which are addressed are as follows:

### Match

- Life Style Expectations
- Friends & Interests
- Personality Match
- Personal Issues

### Skills

- Communication
- Problem Solving

### Bonders

- Spirituality & Values
- Parenting
- Extended Family
- Sexuality
- Finances
- Marriage Readiness
- Marriage Covenant

There are also additional summary categories and categories for those in special circumstances. More information can be obtained from [Foccus@focusinc.com](mailto:Foccus@focusinc.com).

### Part 2:

Your mentoring is enhanced by exercises and materials from Marriage Savers, Inc. These are couple exercises which develop positive marital skills in several areas.

**Part 3:**

At Christ Chapel, we have developed (predominately from the Scriptures) what we call the Essentials of Marriage. These are six things that we feel every couple should understand. The six essentials are as follows:

- Understand lifelong commitment
- Have a biblical system for decision making
- Learn to communicate in such a way as to resolve conflicts
- Understand spiritual leadership within the family
- Understand the financial implications of marriage
- Understand the intimate differences between Men and Women

*To sign up for Marriage Mentoring, call Bruce Casburn, the Mentoring Coordinator, at 817-441-7323.*