

Building a Marriage Mentorship Ministry

Agenda

- What is Marriage Mentoring?
- Why Marriage Mentoring?
- Barriers to Marriage Mentoring?
- Launching A Marriage Mentoring Ministry
- Creating a Culture for Marriage Mentoring to Thrive
- On-Going Training and Equipping

What is Marriage Mentoring?

Marriage Mentoring is one couple helping another couple prepare for marriage, grow their marriage, or heal their marriage.

“Relatively happy, more experienced couple purposefully investing in another couple to effectively navigate a journey that they have already taken.”

Les and Leslie Parrott



What is Marriage Mentoring?

- Mentor Couple : more experienced, authentic couple with a desire to bless and encourage another couple.
(Marriage Mentors are not perfect couples!)
- Mentee Couple: less experienced couple who desire to prepare, grow or heal their marriage.
- Mentoring involves sharing, encouraging, praying, challenging and fighting for marriages!

What is Marriage Mentoring?

- Different types of mentoring
 - Pre-marital
 - Growth
 - Healing
- Mentoring is NOT counseling
- Mentors do not have to be experts or have a perfect marriage
- Mentors do need to be willing to be transparent and honest

“We loved you so much that we are delighted to share with you not only the gospel but our lives as well.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Why Marriage Mentoring?

- Marriages are a gift and reflect the image of God
- Marriage are under spiritual attack
- Mentoring helps couples know they are not alone
- Mentoring helps couples invite Jesus to build, heal, restore and bless marriages for His glory
- Protects and equips couples to fight for their marriage
- Creates a culture of authentic community in the church
- Helps Pastoral Staff meet the needs of couples
- Provides a place for couples to have a ministry together
- It works!

Why Marriage Mentoring?

- Its flexible, good for time-constrained and busy schedules
- Its an inexpensive and low maintenance ministry
- It provides a place of healing as couples feel safe to share their story

“Equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12

Define a Mentoring Vision

2 Keys Questions to Consider:

- How do you see mentoring working in your church?
- What themes/guiding principles would you want to emphasize?
- Kingsland Example
 - Prepare, Grow, and Heal marriages in the image of God
 - True fulfillment in Jesus on marriage at a time
 - Freedom in Christ
 - Spiritual formation/growth

Barriers to Marriage Mentoring?

- Lack of Leadership Support
- Communication – getting the word out
- Mentor couples
 - Time
 - Don't feel qualified
- Mentee couples
 - Time
 - Afraid to ask for help
 - Unclear of benefits of mentoring

Launching a Marriage Mentoring Program

- Step 1: Obtain Leadership Support
 - Get Pastoral/Leadership Support
 - Identity Ministry Champion(s) who will coordinate the ministry
 - It takes a team
 - Different Roles for the Team
 - Teaching/Training
 - Administration/Coordination
 - Promotion/Marketing/Event Planning
 - Passionate about Marriages – Shared Vision!

Launching a Marriage Mentoring Program

- Step 2: Train and Certify Ministry Champion(s)
 - MarriageMentoring.com (Les and Leslie Parrott) - on-line mentor training
 - Marriage Assessment Training
 - SYMBIS.com
 - Strongfamilies.com - LOBR personality test
- Step 3: Recruit Mentor couples
 - Start small, do an initial round of mentoring before rolling out
 - You may want to pray about and invite several couples you know have good marriages
 - Invite to an informational session

Launching a Marriage Mentoring Program

- Step 4: Certify Mentors
 - Mentor Couple completes application
 - Mentor Coordinator meets with Mentor Couple to assess fit for ministry
 - Mentor couple takes training
 - Mentor couple provides copy of training certificate
- Step 5: Identify Curriculum
 - Provides framework for discussion with books, devotionals, and assessments
 - Supports mentoring vision
 - Provides mentee couples with something to work on between mentoring sessions

Launching a Marriage Mentoring Program

- Step 6: Recruit Mentee couples
 - Launch events
 - Sunday after church or Friday “date night”
 - Have mentor couples present
 - Bulletin inserts
 - Announcements from the pulpit/Sunday School

Launching a Marriage Mentoring Program

- Step 7: Onboarding/Matching Process
 - Mentee completes application
 - Champion meets with mentee couple
 - Champion prays about match
 - Champion selects mentor couple
 - Mentor couple prays about match
 - Match begins if mentor accepts

Creating a Mentoring Culture

- **Family Freedom Ministry – we all need healing and freedom**
- Pastoral Team that is passionate about families and freedom
- Develop a plan to communicate often:
 - Highlight mentoring during marriage events
 - Church bulletin, Leadership Connection (small groups)
- Capture mentor/mentee testimonials
- Create a website page to highlight Marriage Mentoring

On-going Mentor Training and Equipping

- Provide regular times for additional training of your mentor couples
- Allow times for mentors to share their stories and learn from each other
- Minister to your mentor couples – they need to be refreshed and blessed

Q & A