

Welcome To Marriage Care At The Journey Church

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Most couples planning to get married spend a great deal of time, energy and money on a wedding ceremony that lasts a few hours. But they spend little time acquiring relationship skills needed to have a marriage that could last 50 plus years.

At The Journey Church we can't guarantee a successful marriage, but we are pleased to provide the opportunity and tools for you, as a couple, to build a Strong Marriage Relationship.

The following 7 Step Marriage Preparation Process is a unique occasion for you and your partner to learn about yourselves and each other, while acquiring practical skills that will enhance your relationship with each other now, and into the future.

All our church pastors follow this process. It is a requirement that all couples, of all ages desiring to become married through The Journey Church follow this process.

We trust this will be a meaningful and valuable experience for you.

If you are not currently planning to have your wedding through The Journey Church we invite you to consider it, so you too can receive this high level of marriage preparation care.

Step 1 – First Contact

Please don't delay your first contact with the church or pastor. We like to know about your marriage a year in advance of your wedding date. We understand that this is not always possible, but don't delay. Let us know as soon as possible.

- a) You may go to our Web Site Marriage Preparation Page. Print and complete the Wedding Request Form and bring to church office.
- b) Or you may contact one of our pastors. The pastor will provide you with the Wedding Request Forms and explain our 7 Step Marriage Preparation Process.

Step 2 – Meet with the Pastor/Wedding Request Form will be Processed

- a) As a couple you must meet with one of our Journey Church pastors to discuss your plans and our Marriage Preparation process, even if another pastor will be conducting your ceremony.

Step 3 –As a Couple you will Meet with our Marriage Preparation Facilitator

- a) Your pastor will give you the contact information of one of our Certified Facilitators for you to arrange your first session at a time convenient for you and your partner. There are a total of seven sessions, one introductory session and six “feedback” sessions. (Reminder: the cost is \$280.00 and is required at this first meeting.)
- b) As you meet, the facilitator gets to know you better by asking a few relationship questions. He or she will then explain the seven session marriage preparation process, the online survey which you and your partner complete separately, confirm next meeting and gather personal and legal information.

Step 4 -Facilitator Connects with Pastor

- a) Your facilitator will complete a short report, based on the couple sessions, for The Journey Church pastor as part of the couple care process.

Step 5 –As a couple you Meet with the Pastor

- a) Your Journey Church pastor will ask some marriage/relationship questions, and present the Ceremony Information Pack; discuss the contents and answer questions i.e. rehearsal and ceremony.
- b) If another pastor is conducting the ceremony, you will meet with him/her at this time.
- c) Any applicable wedding fees must be paid in full at this time.

Step 6 -Rehearsal and Ceremony

Step 7 -Facilitator Follow-up/Couple Check-up

- a) As part of our Marriage Care, your facilitator will contact you (follow-up) by email or phone between one and three times during the first year of marriage.
- b) The intention is to check-in with each partner, reflect on the sessions with a brief overview and any specifics, ask a few relationship questions and offer encouragement and support. If one or both partners desire one or more sessions, this can be arranged with the facilitator. Also, you will be encouraged to take the online Couple Check-up (to be done after one year of marriage).

We (the undersigned) have read and understand The Journey Church Wedding Request Form and 7 Step Marriage Preparation Process. By signing below we agree to have our wedding through The Journey Church, and follow this church’s process for Marriage Preparation (contained on the Wedding Request Form and the 7 Step Process for Marriage Preparation).

Date: _____ Bride: _____ Groom: _____