



Mini-Marriage Workshop

INTRODUCTION

Marriages need preventative maintenance and care to ensure the marriage lasts a lifetime. Pioneered in the local church, the *Mini-Marriage Workshop* is a fun, short, low commitment, and interactive way to funnel couples into an excellent marriage renewal course.

The process is simple:

1. Promote the *Mini-Marriage Workshop* in the worship service.
2. Purchase the sets of workbooks you'll need to accommodate all your couples.
3. Introduce couples to the Marriage 101: Back to the Basics series through the *Mini-Marriage Workshop* which is usually done on a Saturday morning.
4. When couples fall in love with Marriage 101 through the Workshop you will provide them with the opportunity to sign up for a 6-week class to complete the 8 session series. Since they already own their workbooks, the class can be held at any time and in any setting that works best for your church (i.e. Sunday morning/night, Wednesday night Bible study, small group study (additional DVD Sets available), etc...).

The following pages contain the workshop outline and the basic material needed to run it.

PREP & SET UP

Task a team, in advance, to put together a short, funny video presentation or slide show. The presentation could consist of funny interviews from your church leaders – first date, first kiss, most embarrassing moments...etc.

Use round tables (if available) with 3 couples per table—we want room to write and to spread out for the things we will be doing throughout the day. We suggest you create rows of tables. We also suggest grouping the couples by the years they have been married.

- First Row: 1-10 years
- Second Row: 11-20 years
- Third Row: 21-30 years
- Fourth Row: 31 or more years

Select a theme that will be fun for your couples. Be creative. For example, one church used a "Caribbean Cruise" theme.

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On each round table:

- 12 blank sheets of paper
- 1 Men's Edition & 1 Women's Edition Workbook per couple.
- A center piece: a clear bowl with water and flower petals or blossoms floating in it.
- 6 colored wash clothes—using a rubber band, tie them up to look like a flower. Three for washing. Three for drying.

BASIC SCHEDULE

- 8:45 – 9:15: Breakfast – 30 minutes
- 9:15 – 9:20: Welcome/Opening Prayer – 5 minutes
- 9:20 – 10:00: First Teaching Session – 40 minutes
DVD Part 1 – 15 minutes
Discussion – 15 minutes
DVD Part 2 – 10 minutes
- 10:00 – 10:15: The Newlywed, Oldie-Wed and Moldy-Wed Game – 15 minutes
- 10:15 – 10:25: Break – 10 minutes
- 10:25 – 11:30: Second Teaching Session – 65 minutes
Sam Houston story & writing – 10 minutes
DVD Part 1 – 15 minutes
Discussion – 15 minutes
DVD Part 2 – 10 minutes
Foot Washing Experience – 15 minutes
- 11:30ish - Lunch

The schedule is designed to be relaxed and fun as you introduce the series to your couples.

SCHEDULE DETAILS

8:45AM – 9:15AM Breakfast

Provide a simple Continental Breakfast. Give some time for fellowship.

A Continental Breakfast will minimize prep time and manpower needed for set up, and makes for easy clean up. Show the humorous video presentation or slide show to launch the day and break the ice for all the couples.

9:15AM – 9:20AM Welcome/Opening Prayer

The Facilitator can be the pastor, preacher, deacon, elder or a layperson. First and foremost the welcome should put people at ease and assure them that this is a fun event.

It should also include the objectives of the day, re-affirm the schedule, and confirm that they will be going home at 1PM (or Noon depending on whether or not lunch is served).



9:20AM – 10:00AM Teaching Session #1 – View Marriage 101 SESSION FOUR (Conflict Resolution)

Begins on Page #32 in the Workbooks and Page #17 of the Coach's Playbook.

We start with Session Four because each session can 'stand alone' and Session Four works very well in this setting.

Play DVD Part 1 (15 minutes): Show the first half of "Session Four - Conflict Resolution" (located on Disk #2) and complete the fill-in-the blanks on workbook Page #32.

Discussion and Interaction (15 minutes): Have each table interact with discussion questions #1, 2, and 3 (if time permits) on workbook Page #33.

Play DVD Part 2 (10 minutes): Show the second half of "Session Four – Conflict Resolution" and complete the fill-in-the blanks on workbook Page #34.

10:00AM – 10:15AM The Newlywed, Oldie-Wed and Moldy-Wed Game

A FUN Game: Use the format of the Newlywed Game. Have the women leave the room and ask the men a series of three questions. One example to ask the men is "How many cars have you owned in your lifetime?" Then have them write their responses on the sheets of paper. Three or four questions are usually enough.

The wives are then asked to come back, but now the questions are changed. Using the example above, the ladies are now asked: "How many other women do you think your husband proposed to before he proposed to you?" Once she answers, the men turn up the card and show how many cars they have owned. That always gets quite an uproar of laughter. This event can be as short or long as you want depending on your time frame and participation of couples. Be creative.

10:15AM – 10:25AM Break

10:25AM – 11:30AM Teaching Session #2 – View Marriage 101 SESSION ONE (Marital Expectations)

Sam Houston story & writing exercise (10 minutes): Open the session with a comment about the 80/20 Rule. Couples often focus on the 20% that is going BAD and not the 80% that is going GOOD. Read Philippians 4:8-9.

- Share the Sam Houston ring story: "In the spring of 1813, future statesman Sam Houston enlisted in the US Army. His mother, Elizabeth, knew that her son would be gone from her and in great danger. She presented him with a gift. A gold band with one word engraved on the inside of the ring...It was the word HONOR."
- Engage in a two minute writing assignment: Write one word that describes your marriage, examples - Honor, Purity, Love, Faithfulness, Honesty.
- Engage in another two minute writing assignment: Have them write 3 things they love and respect about their mate.

Encourage them to keep these private for now!

Teaching Session #2 – View Marriage 101 SESSION ONE *continued...*

Play DVD Part 1 (15 minutes): Show the first half of 'Session One – Marital Expectations' (located on Disk #1) and complete the fill-in-the blanks beginning on Page #8 in the Workbooks and Page #6 of the Coach's Playbook.

Discussion and Interaction (15 minutes): Have each table interact with discussion questions #1, 2, and 3 (if time permits) on workbook Page #9.

Play DVD Part 2 (10 minutes): Show the second half of 'Session One – Marital Expectations' and complete the fill-in-the blanks on workbook Page #10.

Foot Washing Experience (15 minutes): After the video, address the men. Use Gary's comments from the clip to set up the foot washing experience. Ask the men to humble themselves, take one of the washcloths from the table, wet it with the water on the table, and wash their wife's feet. Use the dry towels to dry their wife's feet.

After the washing, have the couples hold hands; share the One Word description, and the 3 things they love about their spouse. Ask the men to go first.

Then ask the group to stand and have the men speak these words to their bride:

"I AM YOURS. YOU ARE MINE AND I WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER!"

Ask the men to kiss their bride and then you close in prayer.

Don't forget to remind them of the times and dates of the classes to finish the other six sessions of the Marriage 101: Back to the Basics series. Direct them to the sign-up form provided.

Now is the time to also enlist "Mentor Couples". If a couple feels that they would like to be a mentor for other couples by utilizing Marriage 101 (i.e. in a class, in a premarital setting, etc...), have them indicate that on the sign-up form.

11:30ish – 1:00PM LUNCH

After the class sign up, dismiss for lunch if you choose to serve lunch. This concludes the **Mini-Marriage Workshop**.

The **Mini-Marriage Workshop** is a fun, interactive, and powerful way to touch the hearts of couples. It's designed to be the kick off to a weekly Marriage 101 series to be done in a Sunday morning class, a Sunday or Wednesday night, or even in home groups. It makes a wonderful outreach opportunity and opens the door to bring new couples into the church by driving them to a regular, weekly event.