

Premarital Preparation as Biblical Counseling
Session Handout
June 24, 2023

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Link to "Three to Get Ready" Supplemental Worksheets: https://1drv.ms/b/s!AgHN_-HnYV7pg_5amtxtLdrofryLqQ?e=D8dqj1



Personal Data Inventory

Briarwood
Counseling Center

Briarwood Presbyterian Church
Birmingham, AL

PERSONAL DATA INVENTORY—

Premarital

(The information you provide is confidential)

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

Name _____ Birth Date _____ Sex _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Business Phone _____

Education: (last year completed) _____

Employer _____ Position _____ Years _____

Email Address _____

HEALTH CONCERNS

Describe your health: Very Good _____ Good _____ Average _____ Poor _____

Do you have any chronic conditions (if so, what?) _____

List important illnesses and injuries or disabilities _____

Date of last medical exam _____ Report _____

Physician's name & address _____

Have you ever used drugs for other than medical purposes? _____

If yes, please explain _____

Do you drink alcoholic beverages? _____ If so, how frequently and how much? _____

Do you smoke? _____ How long? _____ Have you tried to stop? _____

Have you ever had a severe emotional upset? _____ If yes, explain _____

Have you ever seen a psychiatrist or counselor: _____

If yes, who? _____

For what? _____

What medications are you presently taking? _____

Are you willing to sign a release of information form so that your counselor may write for social, psychiatric, or other medical records? _____

MARRIAGE & FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Dating History: Briefly describe your dating history: How you met and length of time you have been dating.

Have either of you been previously married? _____ Who _____
Date married _____ Date marriage ended _____

Information about children: Name Age Sex Living Yr Ed Step child

Name	Age	Sex	Living	Yr Ed	Step child

Describe relationship to your father _____

Describe relationship to your mother _____

Number of siblings _____ Your sibling order _____

Did you live with anyone other than parents (if so, who?) _____

Are your parents living? _____ Do they live locally? _____

What kind of home did you grow up in?

_____ Traditional (Father, Mother, Children)

_____ Divorced (With whom did you live? ___ Mom; ___ Dad; Other _____)

_____ Step-family (Which parents remarried? _____; did you have to live with step-brothers or step-sisters? ___)

_____ Authoritarian (Father or Mother made all the rules without discussion. Would not allow other opinions.)

_____ Substance Affected (___ Alcohol; ___ Cocaine; ___ Heroin; ___ Marijuana; Other _____)

_____ Religious (___ In name only; ___ Strict; ___ Hypocritical; ___ Happy Experience)

_____ Affectionate (___ Demonstrated with hugs, kisses, etc.; ___ Affection present but not openly demonstrated)

_____ Perfectionist (Everything had to be done just right to please ___ Mom; ___ Dad; ___ Both)

_____ Emotional (Expressed: ___ Crying allowed but controlled; ___ Anger, screaming allowed)

(Repressed: ___ Not shown; ___ Parents showed emotion, but not allowed in kids)

_____ Critical (Parent/s remarked only about the negatives. Little praise for good things)

_____ Abusive (___ Physically; ___ Emotionally; ___ Sexually)

_____ Other: _____

Nearest relative/friend in case of emergency:

Name: _____ Address _____ Phone _____

SPIRITUAL MATTERS

Denominational preference _____

Church attending _____ Member _____

Do you believe in God? _____ Do you pray? _____

Do you believe Satan exists? Yes ___ No ___ Uncertain ___

Would you say you are a Christian? Yes ___ No ___ Uncertain ___

How often do you read the Bible? Never ___ Occasionally ___ Often ___ Daily ___

Explain any recent changes in your religious life _____

SELF ANALYSIS

Circle any of the following words which best describe you now:

active	extrovert	introvert	nervous	sensitive
ambitious	good natured	kind	often-blue	serious
calm	hardworking	leader	persistent	shy
cranky	imaginative	likable	quiet	spiritual
easy-going	impatient	lonely	self-confident	submissive
excitable	impulsive	moody	self-conscious	
other	_____			

PROBLEM CHECK LIST

Please check ones that you have experienced and ones that have effected your dating.

_____ Addiction/s	_____ Deception	_____ Memory
_____ Anger	_____ Envy	_____ Moodiness
_____ Anxiety	_____ Fear	_____ Rebellion
_____ Apathy	_____ Finances	_____ Religious
_____ Appetite	_____ Forgiveness	_____ Sex
_____ Bitterness	_____ Guilt	_____ Sleep
_____ Change in lifestyle	_____ Health	_____ Spousal Abuse
_____ Children	_____ Homosexuality	_____ Vice/s
_____ Depression	_____ In-laws	

Please describe any problems you are concerned about as you approach your wedding date: _____

Besides coming for pre-marital counseling, please describe what else you have tried to do in addressing this/these concerns _____

What are your expectations in participating in pre-marital counseling?

Is there anything else we should know that would enable us to serve you better?

TERMS OF COUNSELING FOR ALL COUNSELEES

The counseling ministry at Briarwood Presbyterian Church is committed to a biblical counseling philosophy. Lay and Staff Counselors are actively involved in this ministry. All counselors who participate in this service have completed training in Biblical Counseling. We are confident in the level of commitment and compassion of all those who serve in this ministry. For appropriate accountability and leadership Lay Counselors are supervised by Staff Counselors and Staff Counselors are supervised by the Director of Counseling. Because of our commitment to training Biblical Counselors, Lay Counselors in Training or Counseling Interns may observe and participate in your counseling sessions as deemed appropriate by your Counselor.

Charges

Counseling services are provided without charge both to Briarwood members and members of the community at large. A *Love Offering* for the ministry is encouraged. Reimbursements and fees, however, are received to assist in defraying actual expenses for various assessments, profiles, seminars, and workshops.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are four situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: when a counselor is uncertain how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another professional, pastor or elder in this church; when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; or when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20). Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

Counselors refer any counselee who appears to be in a suicidal condition to a Staff Counselor trained to provide appropriate

care and protection. All counselors report any incident of suspected child abuse, domestic violence, destructive threats, or subpoenas to the Director of Counseling to be reported to the appropriate authorities as required by law. The Director of Counseling will review mediation agreements administered by counselors. Certain laws require that counselors warn the appropriate individuals if any counselee expresses an intent to or appears likely to take harmful, dangerous or criminal action against a counselor/s or any other person.

Appointment Cancellation Policy: Please notify the Counseling Office at least 24 hours in advance if you cannot keep a scheduled appointment so that we may serve others.

Not Professional Advice: Some of our counselors work in professional fields outside the church. When serving as counselors within this church, however, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do in their professional capacities. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical, or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principles.

Waiver of Liability

THE UNDERSIGNED, having sought Biblical counseling such as offered by Briarwood, a non-profit religious organization, hereby acknowledges his/her understanding of the above and the following conditions:

1. It is understood by the participant counselee that all Biblical Counseling will be provided by seminary-trained Counselors, not licensed therapists;
2. That all counseling provided in the Biblical Counseling program is provided in accordance with the Biblical principles adhered to by Briarwood Church and are not necessarily provided in adherence to any local or national psychological or psychiatric association;
3. That no representation has been made, either expressly or implied, that the Biblical counseling, as conducted by the above-mentioned Lay or Staff Counselors, is accepted as customary psychological and/or psychiatric therapy within the definitional terms utilized by those professions.
4. Certain statements may not be protected as privileged communications under law.
5. I agree that any dispute that with a counselor or with this church arising from or related to counseling will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries.
6. By signing this consent, I agree that I will not attempt to subpoena or require any counselor to appear in any legal proceeding related to any matters discussed during counseling; nor will I attempt to subpoena any notes or records related to this counseling. Furthermore, I release Briarwood, its agents, counselors and employees, from any liability or claim arising from the counselee's participation in the above mentioned Biblical Counseling program:

COUNSELEE

DATE

STAFF OR LAY COUNSELOR

DATE

REVIEWED BY PASTOR OF COUNSELING MINISTRY

DATE

Premarital Counseling Overview

Seven Major Principles

A. Personal Testimonies:

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?” – II Cor 6:14

B. God’s Plan for Marriage:

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
Gen 2:24-25

C. Communication:

“but [a]speaking the truth in love, [b]we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ” – Eph 4:15

“This you know my beloved brethren, but everyone is to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.” - James 1:19

D. Sex Within Marriage:

“Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth.
As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
Be exhilarated always with her love.” Prov 5:18-19

E. Family of Origin:

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
- Prov 22:6

“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” - Josh 24:15

F. Biblical Roles:

“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”
- Eph 5:24-25

“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” - Eph 5:33

G. Finances:

“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” - Luke 16:13

MARITAL ONENESS THROUGH MARITAL FAITH

God's Plan for Oneness in Marriage and Relationships as revealed in Genesis 2:18—25

STEVE

READ. Gen 2:18-25.

OPENER: “From the Creation Story we just read, what did God say at the end of each day?”
(See: Gen 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

I. Adam's Need.

GOD ALONE

Husband Read: 2:18 - Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be ALONE; I will make him a helper SUITABLE FOR HIM.”

- A. What did God say about Man being alone? (Before this, everything was good”. This was NOT.)
- B. How was Adam different in the Garden than we are now?
 - 1. He was perfect no old nature.
 - 2. Perfect fellowship with God – no obstruction God was with him.
 - 3. Experienced God with senses - walked and talked could see, hear God.
 - 4. Perfect environment.
- C. In spite of all this, it was NOT good that man was alone.
 - 1. God alone, in above ideal circumstances not enough.
 - 2. God created Adam in such a way that that God alone did not meet all his needs.
 - 3. Adam was incomplete.

Summary: God chose to create a need in Adam that even God's presence alone could not satisfy.

PEGGY

II. God's Provision.

- A. A helper suitable for him (v 18).
 - 1. corresponding to, according to, complete, custom-made.
 - 2. “ezer” – twice referred to as the woman, 16 times for God as Eben-ezer, 3 times as a military term.

Wife Read 2:19 – 20:

2:19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was it's name.

2:20 And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for ADAM there was not found a helper suitable for him.

**SHOWS NEED
BEFORE
MEETING IT**

- B. Why do you think God did not create Eve immediately?
Follow-up: Why did God parade all the animals in front of Adam for naming?
 - 1. “God never gives us something without showing us our need.” Hendricks
 - 2. Matt 6:8.
- C. What was the conclusion of Adam's naming of the animals?
(There was not a helper found suitable – corresponding to Adam.)
- D. Have you acknowledged your need for your spouse?

PEGGY **III. God Custom-made Eve Knowing What Adam Needed to Fulfill God’s Purpose.**

Wife Read:

- 2:21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.
- 2:22 And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and BROUGHT her to the man.
- A. “So” – because Adam acknowledged his need. (God always meets needs He creates.)
- B. God brought her to the man - presented her to Adam.
(Why? She came with credibility of the character of God as a special hand made gift inspected and approved by God.)
- C. In what ways do you complement your fiancé?

**GOD CREATES
THE NEED –
THEN MEETS IT**

STEVE **IV. Adam’s Acceptance of Eve**

Husband Read:

- 2:23 And the man said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.”
- A. How would you describe Adam’s response?
1. “This is now!” -WOW – contrasted with his response to the animals.
 2. Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh: the uniqueness of Eve’s ability to meet his “**aleness**” need.
- B. Basis of Adam’s acceptance of Eve was *not* her inherent qualities, but that it was God’s doing. God, not Eve, was ultimately the cause of Adam no longer being alone:
1. She was “taken out of man” (by God)
 2. God brought her to the man (vs 22)
 3. Character of God - who God was to Adam.
- C. Adam totally accepted and received Eve as God’s provision to satisfy his aleness.
1. God knows your needs (your aleness was created by Him).
 2. God created your mate.
 3. God never creates a need He can’t fulfill.
 4. Eve was God’s gift — suitable.
- D. To reject our mate in any way (not accepting them the way they are, not loving unconditionally, getting angry with their characteristics):
1. Is to reject God and His design and plan.
 2. Impugn spirit of God.
 3. Reflect on very character of God.
 4. Unbelief, disobedience
 5. Put mate on performance basis – death to a marriage

**ADAM ACCEPTS
GOD’S
PROVISION**

- E. Receive (don't just accept) your mate as God's personally made gift to meet your specific aloneness needs.
 1. God still creates Eves for Adams.
 2. When things get tough: God did not shortchange you.
 3. Adam trusted in God. We are not to trust in the *object* of His provision.

PEGGY

V. Your Faith will be severely tested. How will you respond?

Wife Read: Eph. 6:12 - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- A. Challenges: The world, the flesh, and the Devil:
 1. Sinful world.
 2. Human perspective: The "50/50 Relationship"
 3. Satan
- B. Do Not Be Deceived: your mate is from God. God will not limit Himself by your mate's weaknesses but will supplement through the Body of Christ to fulfill His commitment to meet your 'Aloneness' need.
- C. From a Faith Perspective your mate cannot limit God and therefore cannot limit you. BY FAITH YOU CAN BE RELEASED FROM SATAN'S DECEIT TO DISCOVER THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT OF YOUR MATE.
- D. How to view weaknesses:
 1. Look, beyond weaknesses of mate, to God to fulfill your needs through mate even in their weaknesses.
 2. Believe that love is God's agent of change - only hope to change weaknesses.
 3. Believe that weaknesses are tool of God in your life.
 4. Believe that weaknesses are an opportunity for you to be needed.

STEVE

VI. Results of Viewing Mate from God's Perspective

Husband Read:

2:24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

**LEAVE
CLEAVE
ONENESS**

2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

NEEDS MET

- A. Marriage involves leaving → abandoning, forsaking dependent relationship on parents (emotional, financial, etc.).
- B. Cleave — stick like glue
 1. Permanent bonding of 2 allows
 2. Passive: "cleaved" by someone else. Commit yourself to be "glued" by God
- C. Become one flesh: $1 + 1 = 1$ (New Family Unit)
 NOT: $1 + 1 = 2$ (No Cleaving)
 NOT: $1 + 1 = 6$ (No Leaving)

- D. Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed.
 - 1. Physical Freedom
 - 2. Emotional (fig leaf symbol) Openness: no walls, transparency, totally exposed, unthreatened
 - 3. Total acceptance

PEGGY

VII. Conclusion:

- A. You will never know potential of your relationship until you are released (by your concept of God) to total acceptance of and satisfaction with your mate. Unconditional Love.
- B. This can only be done with God's perspective.
 - 1. Not human perspective
 - 2. Faith in a great God, His Character, His Word

Briarwood Premarital Counseling

Conflict Resolution

I. Introduction.

Steve

- A. What kinds of things have either caused conflict or you think may cause conflict in the future?
- B. “The question is not whether or not you’re going to have conflict, but what it is you will have conflict about and how you are going to handle it.”
- C. Read Matthew 7:24-27.
 - 1) This is the time to decide how you are going to handle conflict. It is God’s “proving ground” and will also affect how your children learn to handle conflict. Steve
 - 2) How did your families handle conflict? Peggy

II. Five Principles for Handling Conflict.

- A. Pray with your spouse daily. Peggy
 - Why would we bring this up in a discussion about conflict?
 - 1) Can’t pray when you’re in the middle of a fight, but you can call a truce.
 - 2) Marriage is a spiritual institution and requires spiritual disciplines
 - 3) Preventative and Restorative: “Two stubborn people bowing their wills before God, acknowledging Him, and He shows up.”
- B. Understanding Anger. Steve
 - 1) What are some of the things that people get angry about?
 - 2) It’s a secondary emotion.
 - 3) Feeling angry isn’t necessarily wrong, but it is wrong to harbor it.
 - a. Harboring it leads to resentment.
 - b. Root cause is most often not getting our way; blocked goals; unmet expectations; hurt. It’s not always that what we want is sinful or wrong, but when we demand it, we respond poorly with anger toward what we think is preventing us from getting our way.
 - c. So what is the right way to deal with our anger?
- C. Loving Confrontation. Peggy
 - 1) Peggy: Eph 4:26, 27, 29;
 - 2) Checking our own heart first: learn how to correctly process our anger
 - a. Realize our tendency to either stuff them or dump them
 - b. First, we must examine our hearts to see if we need to ask for forgiveness.
 - c. Do not allow harmful patterns to be established
 - i. Be very careful what you say – commit to never throwing out the “D-word”.

- ii. Needed confrontation must be done lovingly. People often regret what they say in anger; yet almost never regret their silence. {Not talking about the “silent treatment”}
 - d. Identify real issues. Example: Coming home late for dinner.
 - e. Check your:
 - i. Motivation
 - ii. Tone
 - iii. Timing
 - iv. Circumstances
 - v. Emotional Gas Tank
- 3) Dealing with the issue at hand.
- a. State your concern. Ex: Husband watching late night “edgy” movies.
 - b. Use Scripture wisely: Phil 4:8
 - c. Listen.
 - d. Ask how you can help.
 - e. Suggest next steps.

D. Forgiveness.

Steve

- 1) When someone asks for forgiveness, how can you tell if it is genuine? What’s wrong with saying “I’m sorry if I’ve hurt your feelings.” (Ignores responsibility for doing something wrong.)
- 2) “I am truly sorry for _____ “
- 3) Commanded to seek and grant forgiveness, Eph 4:32.
- 4) What do you think it means to truly forgive someone?
 - a. “True forgiveness means giving up the right to punish the other person.”
 - b. What kinds of things do we do to punish someone?
 - c. Allow time to absorb the hurt. Give them time to work through it. Don’t expect the other person to immediately respond as if there was nothing wrong. They may just need some time.

E. Reconciliation.

Peggy

- 1) Reconciliation must be part of the process.
 - a. The offending partner must take the initiative to rebuild trust. Forgiveness that does not conclude with reconciliation is not true forgiveness.
 - b. The one offended must resist the temptation to rehearse the hurt. {Mental movies not allowed.}
- 2) Look again at Eph 4:32. How would you describe God’s forgiveness of us?
 - a. Removes our sin
 - b. Doesn’t remember it – holds no record of wrongs
 - c. Gives us what we don’t deserve

Love Languages

What communicates love to one person is often very different from what may communicate love to someone else. Each of us has our own primary “love language”, those words or actions that best demonstrate to us and make us *feel* that we are truly loved.

Instructions: Rate each item below as to its effectiveness in communicating love to you on a scale from 1 to 5, with “1” being “Not Effective” and 5 being “Very Effective”. Then rate each item to indicate how well you think it communicates love to your partner.

	You	Your Partner
1) Words of Affirmation: Expressing appreciation and admiration.	_____	_____
2) Quality Time: Being together, doing fun things, communicating.	_____	_____
3) Giving: Gifts, meeting material needs, giving thoughtful cards, etc.	_____	_____
4) Acts of Service: Helping, doing work around the house, taking care of their possessions, fixing things.	_____	_____
5) Physical Touch: Kissing, caressing, physical contact, holding hands.	_____	_____
6) Listening: Paying attention to what is said, recalling earlier conversations, making eye contact	_____	_____

(Scale: 1 – “Not Effective” 5 – “Very Effective”)

IN-LAW RELATIONSHIPS

1. How would you describe your present relationship with your future in-laws?
2. How do you think marriage will change this relationship with your in-laws?
3. Put an “X” by the factors that you feel can contribute to in-law difficulties:

<input type="checkbox"/> Possessive parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Assuming there <i>will</i> be a problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Well-adjusted “empty-nesters”	<input type="checkbox"/> Overly dependent (married) child
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents with wealth	<input type="checkbox"/> Living with parents
<input type="checkbox"/> Working for parent or in-law	<input type="checkbox"/> Recently divorced mother
<input type="checkbox"/> Marrying against parent wishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Borrowing money
<input type="checkbox"/> Grooms parents help w/wedding	<input type="checkbox"/> Overlooking in-law faults
<input type="checkbox"/> Short engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> Trying to solve in-law problems
4. Circle “X-ed” items in #3 above that you feel may be factors in your situation. Are there others not listed?
5. What expectations will your parents have for both of you?
6. When do you think conflicts with in-laws are most likely to occur?
7. Have you discussed (Y or N):

<input type="checkbox"/> How often will you visit your parents?
<input type="checkbox"/> How often will you call or text them?
<input type="checkbox"/> Which of you will be responsible for communicating with them?
<input type="checkbox"/> How will you determine where you will spend Thanksgiving and Christmas?
<input type="checkbox"/> How will you determine a budget for Christmas presents for your parents?
<input type="checkbox"/> How will you respond to an offer for significant financial help from an in-law?
8. How will you deal with differences and conflicts with your in-laws?

RESOLVE – by both of you, to determine a way to solve the problem and follow through!

RECONCILIATION – is the goal, not *retaliation* or just “putting up with them”.

REALITY – must be faced. Don’t “gloss over” a problem, nor blow it out of proportion.

Five Financial Questions

1) **How will you use your finances?**

“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” - Luke 16:10-13

a) Have you discussed your financial goals and dreams?

"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’” - Luke 14:28-30

b) What do you see as your financial responsibilities?

“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” - I Tim 5:8

“Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” - Mal 3:10

2) **What is your attitude toward debt?** (What do you see as valid uses of credit?)

“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” - Prov 22:7

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.” - Rom 13:8

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” - Matt 6:24

3) **Have you discussed your assets and liabilities?**

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.” - Phil 4:11-12

4) **How will you divide financial duties?**

5) **How many checking accounts will you use?**

STUDY GUIDE: God-Designed Marriage

I. PREPARED BY GOD

- A. List three things you believe the Scripture means in Genesis 2:18. (For example, Creation was not complete - “not good”):

(1)

(2)

(3)

- B. According to Genesis 2:22b, “and brought her unto the man,”:

Who initiated the marriage ceremony? _____

Who was father of the bride? _____

Who blessed the “wedding?” _____

What implications does this have for your wedding? List them:

- C. In Malachi 2:14, marriage is called a “covenant.” Look up this word in a dictionary of theology or in a Bible dictionary. In light of its definition, draw three practical conclusions about “God-Prepared Marriage.” Here is an example: “Marriage is not a contract which can be broken if one defaults”:

(1)

(2)

(3)

II. PURPOSES DETERMINED BY GOD

A. Companionship

1. For what reason is Genesis 2:19-20 sandwiched between 2:18 and verses 21 and 22?
2. Draw five conclusions from the words *alone* and *helpmeet* in Genesis 2:18 that reflect God's purpose of companionship in marriage.
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
3. List implications you can think of for companionship suggested in Gen 2:24.
4. In Malachi 2:14, what does the word *thy*, which modifies the word *companion*, suggest?

B. Sexual Intimacy (Genesis 2:24)

1. As you think of the entire Bible, what is its consistent teaching about the legitimacy of sexual relations? What are the bounds? (Hebrews 13:4)
2. In light of 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 (read this in a couple of translations) what conclusions can be drawn about the frequency of sexual relations?
3. In the light of the same passage, write out your reaction to sexual response as a duty.

4. If biblical love is giving, what should be our focus in sexual relations?
5. List as many reasons as you can think of concerning why sex is not just for procreation.

C. Children (Genesis 1:27-28)

1. Do you think that every couple should have children, if they are able, in light of these verses?
2. Do you think there is an order of priority here, i.e., companionship, sex, children? If so, for what reason? If not, for what reason?
3. In light of your general knowledge of scripture, do you think children can “make” a marriage?

III. PERMANENCE DIRECTED BY GOD (Matthew 19:3-19; I Corinthians 7:10-16, Rom 7:1-3; see also Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18)

- A. What is God’s pleasure regarding marriage?
- B. Does God permit divorce? For what reasons?
- C. If divorce takes place, is forgiveness still required of the offended party? Why? Why not?
- D. In light of Ephesians 5:22-32, what is one reason that God desires permanency in marriage?

Your Marriage Wish List

Name: _____

Directions: List below as many items as you can think of that you would like to see be a part of your marriage. These can cover any and every area of your life together. Dream a bit about what you see as those things that would be a part of your idyllic life together. ***Do this individually without discussion or showing it to your partner.*** Then, circle those items that you see as top priorities, *even required*, for your marriage to be what you believe God intends for you.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

11)

12)

13)

14)

15)

16)

17)

18)

19)

20)

Five Principles To Enhance Communication

A Study Guide

Read the verses in each category and then write out the principle that will help your communication. Think of a situation where you and your partner either demonstrated this principle or needed to apply it.

1) Proverbs 15:23, 28; James 1:19

Principle: _____

Relevant situation: _____

2) Philippians 2:3; Ephesians 4:2

Principle: _____

Relevant situation: _____

3) Ephesians 4:15; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:8

Principle: _____

Relevant situation: _____

4) Proverbs 15:28; 10:19; Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29

Principle: _____

Relevant situation: _____

5) Proverbs 17:14; 20:3; Ephesians 4:31-32; I Corinthians 13:5

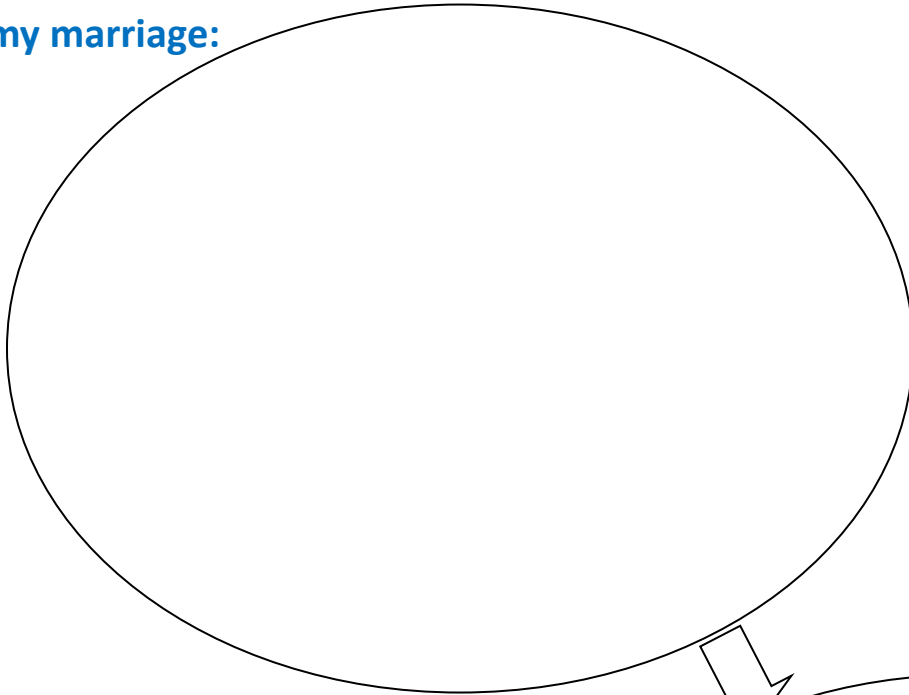
Principle: _____

Relevant situation: _____

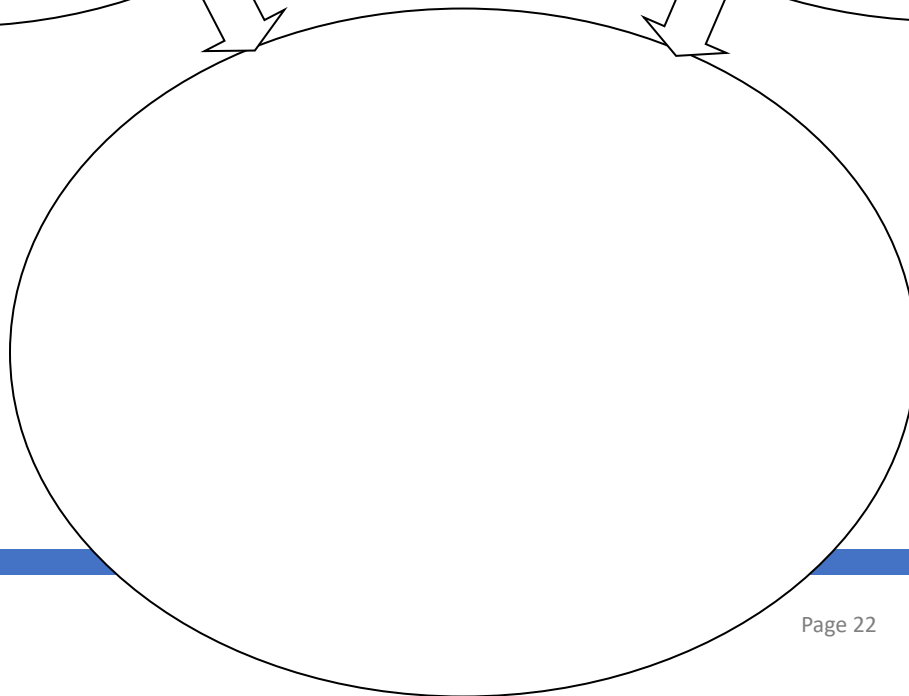
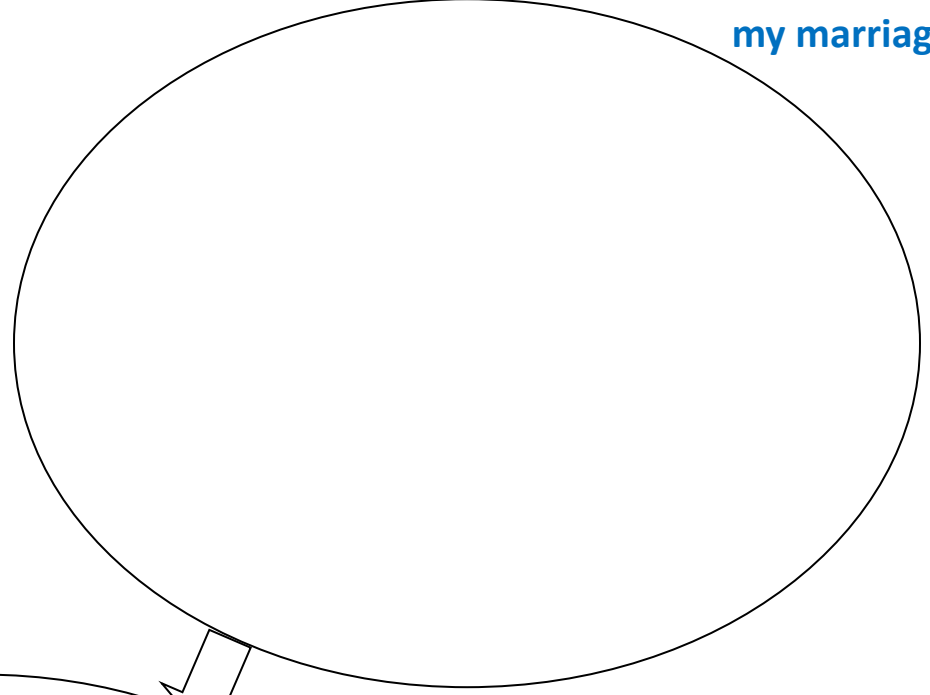
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Select Family Traits: **Groom**

What I *do* want to take into my marriage:

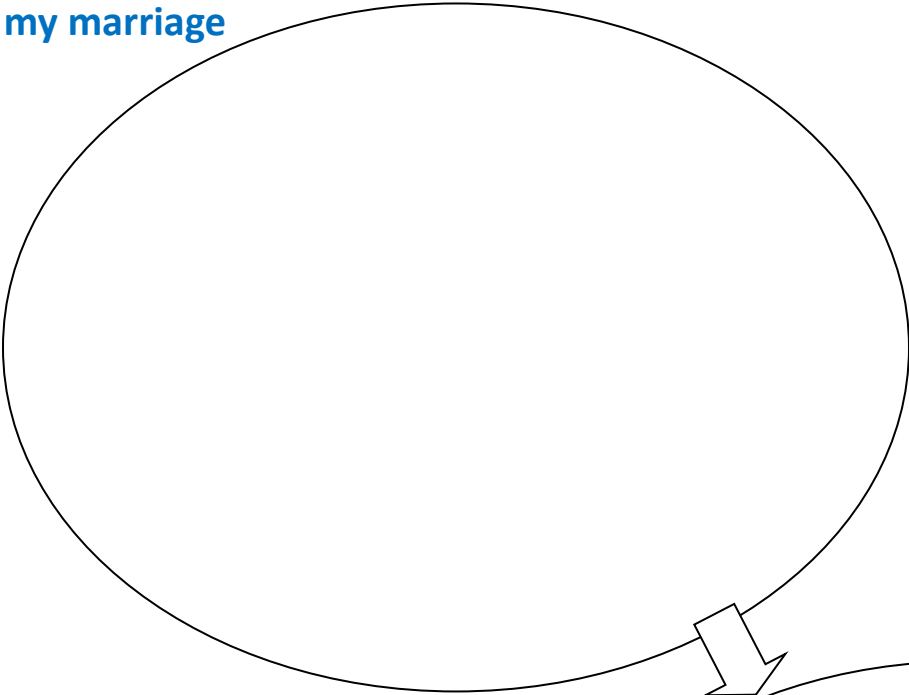


What I do *not* want to take into my marriage:

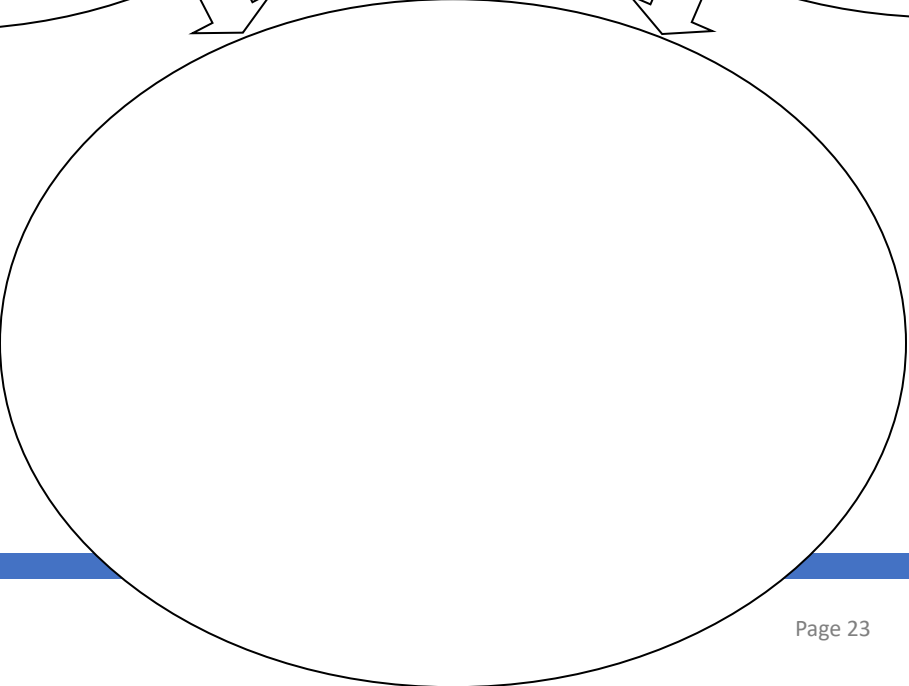
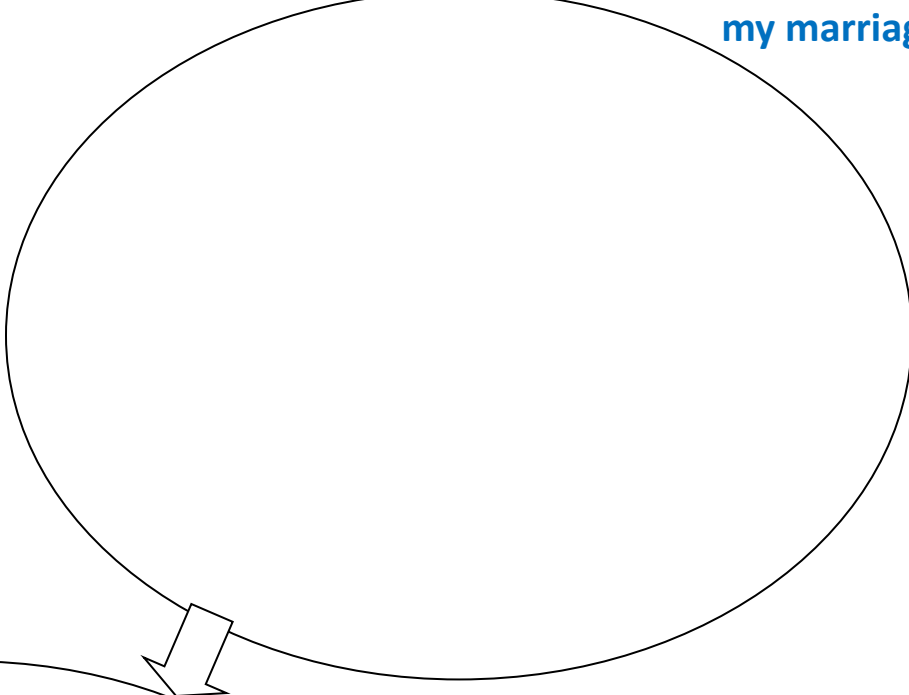


Select Family Traits: Bride

What I *do* want to take into my marriage



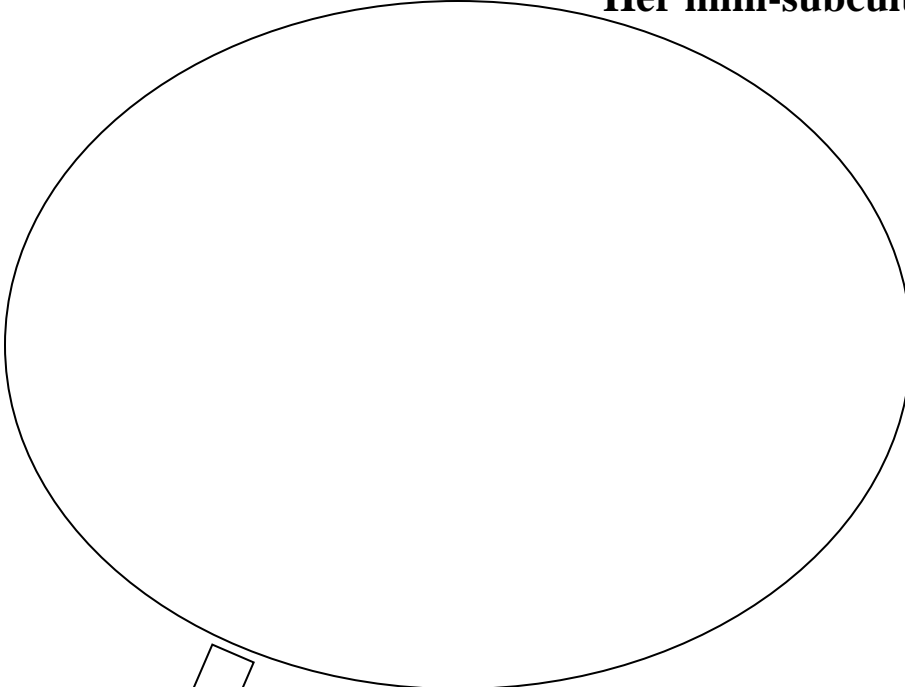
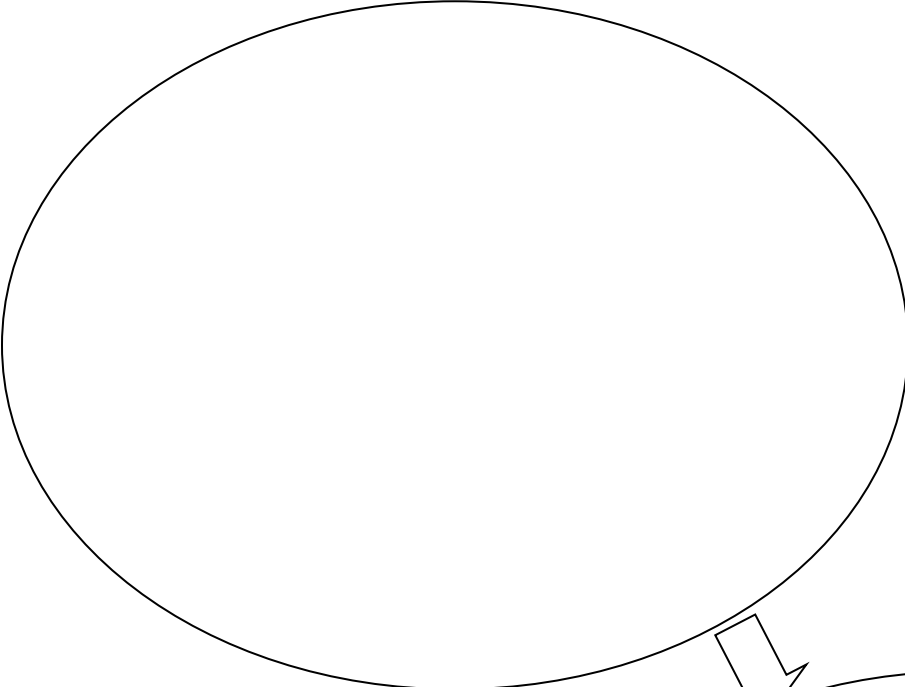
What I do *not* want to take into my marriage



Select Family Traits: Couple

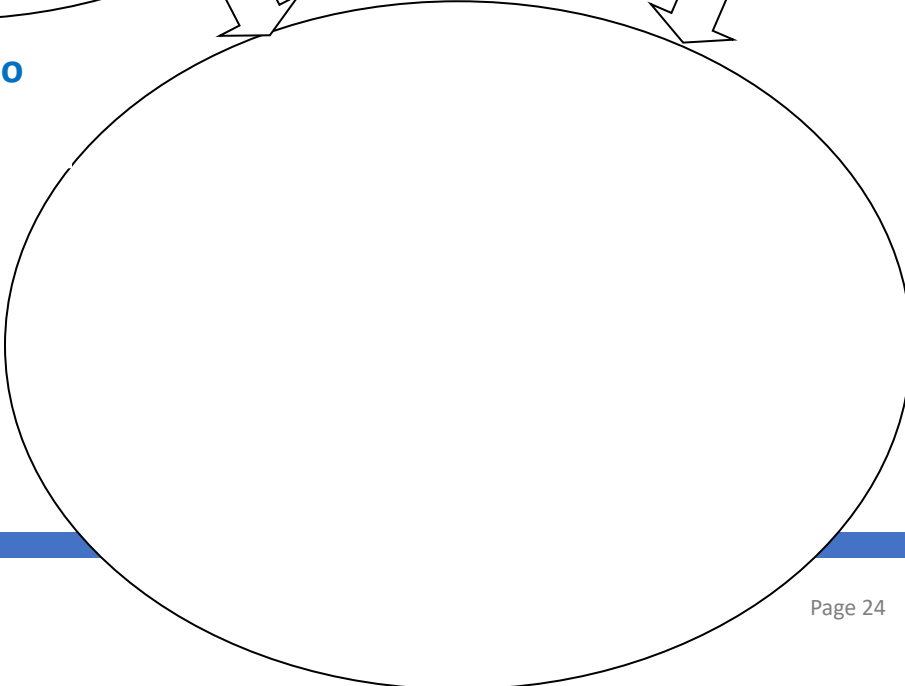
His mini-subculture

Her mini-subculture



What I *do* want to take into my marriage

What I *do* want to take into my marriage



Their new mini-subculture

ROLES WITHIN GOD-DESIGNED MARRIAGE

1) List the commands in Eph 5:15-33 and indicate to whom they apply:

Verse	Command	Pertains to (H, W, B):

2) With privilege comes responsibility. In Ephesians 5:23, God says the husband is the head of the wife. List several responsibilities that you understand to come with headship.

-
-
-
-

What do you think headship will look like in your relationship?

3) Read John 13:12-17. What are some practical ways you can be a servant-leader to your wife?

- 4) Does, the church deserve the love of Christ?
Must your wife be meeting her responsibilities before you love her?

- 5) Read I Peter 3:1-4. Should a wife still submit to her husband if she really doesn't agree with his decision? When should she not submit? (Acts 4:18-19)

What does "inner-beauty" look like?

- 6) As a single woman, you have had a great deal of freedom. What three habits of your lifestyle do you think you will need to change?
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)

- 7) As a single man you have been independent. How will being married cause a change in your lifestyle? List the three most difficult areas for you to deal with.
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)

- 8) Perhaps the most important command is found in Eph 5:18. What does it mean to you to be filled with the Spirit? How should being filled with the Spirit affect your marriage?

Who's in Charge?

Review each of the tasks below and check the column for who you believe will be *primarily* responsible for each area:

Task	Husband	Wife
1) Paying Bills	_____	_____
2) Investments	_____	_____
3) Establishing a budget	_____	_____
4) Making Beds	_____	_____
5) Vacuuming	_____	_____
6) Grocery Shopping	_____	_____
7) Decorating	_____	_____
8) Vacation Planning	_____	_____
9) Buying Gifts	_____	_____
10) Car Maintenance	_____	_____
11) Insurance	_____	_____
12) Sending Cards	_____	_____
13) Cleaning Bathrooms	_____	_____
14) Washing Windows	_____	_____
15) Lawn Maintenance	_____	_____
16) Landscaping	_____	_____
17) Painting	_____	_____
18) Car Purchase	_____	_____
19) Social Calendar/Commitments	_____	_____
20) Cooking / Menu Planning	_____	_____
21) Emptying Trash	_____	_____
22) Home Purchase	_____	_____
23) Entertaining	_____	_____
24) Date Night	_____	_____
25) Photographs & Video	_____	_____
26) Furniture Purchase	_____	_____
27) Washing Clothes	_____	_____
28) Buying Clothes	_____	_____
29) Spiritual Focus	_____	_____
30) Driving	_____	_____
31) Navigating	_____	_____
32) Home Maintenance	_____	_____
33) Doctor Appointments	_____	_____
34)	_____	_____
35)	_____	_____
36)	_____	_____
37)	_____	_____
38)	_____	_____
39)	_____	_____

A Budget for the First Year of Marriage

Name: _____

Fiancée: _____

Income

Monthly

Husband's Gross Salary

Wife's Gross Salary

Gift Income

Tax Refunds

Other Income

Total Income: _____ \$0

Flexible Expenses

Living Expenses

Food and household supplies

Personal supplies (haircuts, toiletries, etc.)

Cleaning and laundry

Papers/magazines/etc.

Other

Transportation

Auto purchase (monthly payment)

Gas

Repairs

Other

Misc. Expenses

Furniture, household equipment/repairs

Medical and dental care

Clothing

Vacation and travel

Education

Entertainment/recreation/hobbies

Christmas and other gifts

Other

Fixed Expenses

Tithes and offerings

Housing (rent or mortgage)

Vehicle licenses

Other	_____
Taxes	
FICA	_____
State and Local	_____
Other Payroll Deductions	_____
Property	_____
Education Expenses	
School	_____
Other assessments	_____
Utilities	
Heat	_____
Electric	_____
Phone	_____
Sewer	_____
Water	_____
Cable	_____
Internet	_____
Other	_____
Insurance	
Auto	_____
Life	_____
Health	_____
Homeowners or Renters	_____
Other	_____
Installment Payments	
Loans (other than auto)	_____
Department stores	_____
Credit Cards	_____
Other	_____
Savings	_____
Total Expenses:	_____ \$0
Net Difference (Income - Expenses):	_____ \$0

Link to Excel file: https://1drv.ms/x/s!AgHN_-HnYV7pgfEuhu_azTq5CjtjeQ?e=RIK3w1