

## **PRE-MARRIAGE MENTORING PROGRAM OUTLINE**

This program is aimed at providing couples intending to marry with valuable information and a thorough foundation for the marriage institution both before and after the wedding ceremony.

The pre-marriage part of the ministry curriculum is estimated to last between 3-6 months after the couple contacts the church, and up to 9 months after the wedding ceremony with their assigned mentoring couple. You are expected to meet with them at least twice after the ceremony.

Listed below are the steps you need to take and the estimated time frame for each step.

### **Step One**

**2-4 weeks**

Once the couple completes and returns the covenant agreement and biographical forms, a meeting will be scheduled for the couple to meet with Pastor Walt DeVries and the Ministry Director.

At the initial appointment, the couple will be introduced to the church policies on ceremonies in the church and the mentoring program.

The couple will be given the various forms they should complete and return to the church for evaluation.

- a) FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study)
- b) Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis (T-JTA) – Complete one for self and one for mate.
- c) Family History Analysis

Couples are expected to return all forms to Glad Tidings Church as soon as possible, along with \$75.00 fee (checks payable to Glad Tidings Church).

### **Step Two**

**6-8 weeks**

Once the forms are received and evaluated the couple will be assigned to a mentoring couple based on the results of the analysis. It is advisable to assign couples to a mentoring couple they are not familiar with.

The couple and their mentoring couple will schedule 6-8 sessions to last approximately 6-8 weeks. The following is a sample outline.

- \* Session One - Get to know you session and review the various analyses
- \* Session Two - Review the pre-marriage workbook
- \* Session Three - Review the pre-marriage workbook
- \* Session Four - Review the pre-marriage workbook
- \* Session Five - Meet with the engaged couple independently.

- \* Session Six - Review any red flag areas.
- \* Session Seven - Finalize pre-marriage module(s) or continue extended session as needed.

Mentoring couples are expected to keep record of every meeting and then submit a final recommendation to the Ministry Director and the marrying Pastor.

### **Step Three**

**1-2 weeks**

After recommendation from the mentoring couple and approval from the Pastor, the couple will schedule a meeting with the Church Wedding Coordinator, Joanie Stevens.

### **Step Four**

**2-3 weeks**

The couple should set a date and meet with the marrying Pastor at least twice.

- \* Session One - Review the mentoring couple's report with the couple.
- \* Session Two - Establish wedding program or order of ceremony.

### **Step Five**

Arrange meetings with mentoring couple after the wedding ceremony. This should occur at about three (3) months and again nine (9) months after the wedding if applicable.