

Marriage As Covenant – 53:00 40:00
Outline Only - Common Protestant Outline
(WITH 3RE CHANGES NOTED IN BOLD ITALICIZED CAPS)

I. RECAP (CL AND/OR CS: 3:00)

II. QUESTION & ANSWER TIME (CL AND/OR CS: 10:00)

III. Introduction and optional opening prayer (LH or LW: 0:30)

IV. Our wedding day (LH & LW: 3:00 total)

- A. Our dream when we got married**
 - 1. What qualities made my spouse special to me?**
 - 2. What were my hopes and dreams for our life together?**
- B. Our wedding in the Church**
 - 1. What was my focus for our wedding?**
 - 2. Why did I/we decide to get married in the Church?**
 - 3. At that time, what did the covenant of marriage mean to me?**
 - 4. How did I see the role of the pastor/priest at our wedding?**

V. A covenant love -- the kind of love we need (8:00 total)

- A. Contract-type of love relationship vs. covenant-type relationship**
(CL and/or CS: 5:00)
 - 1. Explain the difference between a contract and a covenant**
 - 2. Explain how marriage is a covenant**
 - 3. Read Ephesians 5:21, 25-33 and comment briefly**
- B. Reflection on Ephesians (LH & LW: 3:00 total)**
 - 1. What unconditional love means to me (LH or LW: 1:00)**
 - 2. Share what it means to love my spouse as my own body**
(LH or LW: 1:00)
 - 3. Share my understanding of: "We are members of His Body"**
(LH or LW: 1:00)

VI. We are the Church (10:00 total)

- A. How our relationship with the Church has changed**
(LH & LW and CL & CS: 1:30 each)

- B. The couple relationship is a "little church"** (LH or LW: 2:00)
- C. Living examples of the covenant of marriage** (CL: 2:00)

VII. The gifts of our covenant (8:30 total, with transition; 3:00 for A - C)

- A. Contagious love** (LH or LW: A and C; other Lay spouse: B; 3:00 for A - C)
- B. Being life-giving** (Other Lay spouse)
- C. Raised above the ordinary**
- D. Healing** (LH & LW: 5:00)
 - 1. The power of healing is available to us**
 - 2. Couple's sharing of the experience of healing**
 - 3. Motivation to use the gift of healing in our everyday lives**

VIII. Preparation for extended dialogue (10:00 total – including time to play the song)

- A. Introduce extended dialogue** (CL or CS: 1:00)
- B. Give instructions** (LH and/or LW: 2:00)
- C. Motivation**
 - 1. The Church is praying for you** (C1 & 2: LH and/or LW: 2:00)
 - 2. One couple is praying especially for you - explain**
 - 3. This time is profoundly important to you, to us, to the Church**
(CL or CS: 1:00)
 - 4. Song: If Tomorrow Never Comes** (CL or CS: 4:00 – including 3:40 for song)

Questions: Extended Dialogue Handout

WRITING TIME: 60 MINUTES

DIALOGUE TIME: 60 MINUTES

Husbands stay in the conference room to write (recommended).