

Marriage in Today's World – 71:30 (usually 43:30)
Outline Only - Common Protestant Outline
(WITH 3RE CHANGES NOTED IN BOLD ITALICIZED CAPS)

I. WELCOME AND RECAP (LH AND/OR LW: 5:00)

II. QUESTION & ANSWER TIME (LH and/or LW: 10:00)

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

IV. The world's plan for our marriage (Total time: 6:30)

- A. Personal expectations of marriage, including influences from family and friends** (LH & LW and CL & CS: 1:00 each)
- B. General expectations of marriage, including influences from society and media** (LH or LW: 1:00)
- C. Exercise on expectations** (CL or CS: 1:30)

V. Stages of relationship (Total time: 11:00)

- A. Romance (First stage)**
 - 1. Definition of Romance** (LH or LW: 0:30)
 - 2. Sharing on the state of romance** (LH & LW and CL & CS: 1:00 each)
 - 3. Exercise: What attracted me to you?**
(CL or CS: 2 min – time includes introduction, writing time, and sharing of answers)
- B. Disappointments**
 - 1. Sharing of disappointments over unmet expectations**
(LH & LW and CL & CS: 0:45 each)
 - 2. Unmet expectations and disappointments lead to changes in attitudes and behaviors** (LH or LW: 1:30)
 - a. Definition of attitudes**
 - b. Sharing of attitudes and behaviors resulting from unmet expectations**

VI. The consequences (Total time: 8:00)

- A. Married singles attitudes and behaviors**
(Other lay spouse and CL or CS: 0:45 each)
- B. Disillusionment (Second stage)**
 - 1. Explain the downward spiral and define the stage of disillusionment** (CL or CS: 0:30)

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2. Share personal examples of the deep loneliness in disillusionment (LH & LW and CL & CS: 1:30 each)

VII. To love is a decision (Total time: 11:30)

- A. Explain “to love is a decision”** (LH or LW: 1:30)
- B. Share how you strive to break out of the spiral**
 - 1. By making daily decisions to love and be loved** (LH & LW: 3:00)
 - a. Making the decision to love**
 - b. Making the decision to be loved**
 - 2. By confronting for the sake of your relationship**
(CL or CS: 2:30 includes 1:00 for exercise)
- C. The result of making the decision to love is reaching the stage of joy (Third stage)** (4:30)
 - 1. Definition of the stage of joy** (CL or CS: 0:30)
 - 2. Sharing the stage of joy** (CL or CS and LH or LW: 1:00 each)
 - 3. How romance, disillusionment, and joy cycle through the call to ministry** (CL: 2:00)

VIII. Preparation for dialogue (LH & LW: 4:00)

- A. Ask them to write a love letter instead of a reflection**
- B. What we mean by love letter**

IX. PRESENTERS SHARE A SAMPLE DIALOGUE ON A FEELING IN AN AREA THAT IS DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT (CL & CS: 10:00) ***

X. Set up the dialogue (CL and/or CS: 5:00)

Worksheets for dialogue (as in Workbook): Symptoms of Disillusionment

Writing time: 20 minutes

Dialogue time: 20 minutes

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

*** When WWME piloted the 3RE Weekends, they recognized that flexibility was needed here. Where the couples seem to be really dialoguing well and understanding the process (based on their questions), the presenters might select to omit this.

NOTE: if you did invite the couples to bring in a wedding photo for this session, consider how and when these will be displayed/shared.