

**Living Our Covenant – maximum 90:00
Outline Only - Common Protestant Outline**

1st Set Couple

I. Introduction, optional opening prayer, and song

(LW: Total time 5:00, with song)

II. Experience of our covenant (Total time: 20:00 max)

A. Share our hopes and dreams for our relationship as a result of our extended dialogue (LH or LW and CL or CS: 0:45 each)

B. Open sharing (CL and/or CS: 0:30 introduction, 1:00 writing, 1:00 sharing with spouse, 10:00–12:00 open sharing)

3rd Set Couple

III. Continuing the journey (Total: 7:15)

A. Luke 24:30-33 (LH or LW: 1:45 for transition, reading, and suggested wording)

B. Being open and apostolic (Total time: 5:30)

1. Define open and apostolic (CL: 0:30)

2. The other-centeredness of marriage and the call to ministry
(CL and CS: 1:30)

3. Couple power (Total time: 3:30: One Lay spouse: a, b & c; other Lay spouse: d)

a. You are empowered by the love of our marriage covenant
(LH or LW: 0:15)

b. Share two brief, specific examples of being open and apostolic by sharing our love as a couple

(Same Lay spouse: 1:00)

c. Briefly address our re-evaluation of attitudes and behaviors to make ourselves available to others (Same Lay spouse: 0:45)

d. Share the effects on us when we live an open and apostolic lifestyle

(Lay spouse who did not share III B 3 a-c: 1:30)

IV. We can change the world

(LH or LW and CL or CS: Total time including the exercise: 5:00-7:00)

A. You have the power to change the world

(Same Lay Spouse continues: 1:30)

B. Activity on being open and apostolic (CL or CS: 3:00-5:00)

2nd Set Couple

Before beginning section V, allow 5:00 to introduce and sing “There’s a New World Somewhere.”

V. Keeping our relationship a priority in today’s world

(Total time: 18:15 including activity)

A. Brief overview of the tools for keeping our relationship a priority

(LH & LW share V A 1-4; Total time for A: 8:30)

1. Attention to our communication in and out of dialogue

(Same Lay spouse continues: 1:00)

2. Couple prayer (LH or LW: 1:00)

3. Attention to our sexual relationship (LH or LW: 1:00)

4. Being involved with the Marriage Encounter Community

(Total time 4:30)

a. Share our experience of Community support

(LH or LW and CL or CS: 1:00 each)

b. End with an invitation to continue the journey

(Other Lay Spouse: 1:30)

B. Re-evaluation (Total time for V B: 9:45, including activity)

1. Re-evaluation of attitudes and behaviors in order to commit to using the tools (LH or LW: 0:45)

2. Example of re-evaluation to make a change in our lives (Other Lay spouse and other CL or CS: 1:30 each)

3. Couple exercise on re-evaluation (CL and/or CS: 6:00)

What, specifically, am I going to do in order to make our relationship a top priority?
What attitudes and/or behaviors do I need to change to make this possible?

1st Set Couple

VI. Sharing in the dream by inviting others to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience (Total time: 6:30, including activity)

A. Our dream to change the world (CL: 1:00)

B. Inviting (VI B 1-4: 5:30)

1. Why invite? (LH & LW: B 1-3: 2:00)

2. Whom to invite?

3. How to invite?

4. Starter list (CL and/or CS: 3:30)

3rd Set Couple

VII. Sharing in the dream financially

(8:00 presentation; 10:00-12:00 discussion time; travel time will vary)

- A. Vision and invitation to invest in the dream** (CL: 2:30)
- B. Cost of this Marriage Encounter experience** (LH or LW: 1:30)
- C. Giving from substance** (Other Lay spouse: 2:00)
- D. How to donate** (Lay Spouse who shared VII C continues: 1:00)
- E. Discussion question** (Other Lay spouse: 1:00 to introduce, 10:00 for couples to discuss their donation; travel time will vary)

Question:

How much are we willing to share financially so that the dream and the mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter may continue?

VIII. Wrap-Up (LH or LW: 2:00)

- A. Thank the couples**
- B. Take home packet**
- C. Dialogue question for Monday**

How do I feel about continuing the journey we've begun through our dialogue at home? Describe the feeling in loving detail.

- D. Preparation for the closing worship service**

IX. Closing worship service with renewal/reaffirmation of vows