

Marriage As Covenant – 40:00
Outline Only - CPO

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

II. 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?**

III. 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)**

IV. 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)

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V. 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

VI. 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: 75 minutes

Dialogue time: 75 minutes

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