

# Lutheran Marriage Encounter

## Kickoff 1

### January, 2003

An outline to be used for your unwritten, ad-lib presentation

- I. Begin with introductions and a getting acquainted time.
  - A. Set a relaxed, inviting tone.
  - B. Get to know the rookie couples by asking them questions:
    - 1. Where from, where met, when and where married, kids, extended family?
    - 2. Jobs and hobbies?
    - 3. Involvement in community/church?
  - C. Confirm that each one is a baptized and communing member of a Lutheran or other Protestant congregation and actively involved there.
- II. Get the presentation started by explaining what we will be doing at this Kickoff:
  - A. Explaining the vision of WWME.
  - B. Explaining the responsibilities of being a presenting couple for Lutheran Marriage Encounter.
  - C. Beginning a process to help them decide if they want to be a presenting couple.
- III. Refer to Scripture as a basis for this Kickoff. (Remember that all Scripture references used in LME are from the New Revised Standard Version.)

- A. Begin by mentioning that John 15:12 says all Christians are to love one another as Christ loves us.
- B. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, pointing out that we are each gifted in a special way to carry out Christ's Commandment in John 15: 12.
- D. Share your response to the Corinthians passage now or how you responded at your own kickoff.
- E. Ask the rookies to respond to this passage too: how do they feel or what does it say to them.
- F. Conclude by mentioning the following ideas:
  - 1. Through our faith journey, including those years as a presenting couple, we are gaining more and more insight into all the aspects of our own gifts.
  - 2. God does not call the qualified; God qualifies the called.
  - 3. God calls us couples into the ministry of being presenters for Lutheran Marriage Encounter

#### IV. Read the vision of WWME - "Love one another as I have loved you"

- A. Ask how Christ's love for us affect our couple-love.
- B. Ask how our couple-love affects all others around us.

#### V. Discuss Presenting Couple Commitments.

- A. Emphasize the seriousness of their commitment to an ongoing journey of intimacy, openness to change, and willingness to re-evaluate. We are asking them to adopt a whole new lifestyle.
- B. Emphasize their commitment to making LME their top priority in ministry.

1. Give examples of your own struggles with time, family, church, and job juggling.
  2. Be sure to tell them your joy and sense of fulfillment.
- VI. Briefly tell them the history of LME, beginning with Father Calvo in Spain, and ending with your local area.
1. 1962 Father Calvo started all this in Spain.
  2. 1967 presented at Notre Dame University to the Christian Family Movement.
  3. Became Worldwide Marriage Encounter under Father Gallagher and some New York couples.
  4. 1975 Lutheran Marriage Encounter started in Spokane, WA, as part of Worldwide.
  5. LME spread across U.S. and Canada, to the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, and to Iceland, Brazil, and Australia.
  6. Then tell how and when it came to your local area.
- VII. Briefly explain the structure of LME, starting at the local level and ending at the international.
1. Local newsletter will help you find loving tasks in which you may serve.
  2. Consult your area leadership for more information.
- VIII. Lastly, talk about what will take place in the next 3-6 months as they seek to decide about their involvement in this ministry.
- A. Help them set up a plan for praying about, dialoging about, and discussing their call to the LME presenting couple ministry.
  - B. Mention specific ways for them to be involved in these next months:
    1. Attend team meetings (give the next date and place).
    2. Attend love circle.
    3. Attend community events.

4. Write and give a presentation at a team meeting, love circle, and/or community event.
  5. Give an information presentation they've prepared.
  6. Support weekends by doing loving tasks.
  7. Attend a second kickoff.
  8. Be in close contact with their mentor couple.
  9. Attend a Deeper Weekend.
- C. Distribute the Discussion Question sheet from your Deeper Preparation Packet and request that they reply to you in 3-7 days whether they wish to continue toward becoming a presenting couple.

IX. Close with circle prayer and the ME song and refreshments.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these discussion questions to help you decide if you want to continue the process of becoming a presenting couple.

1. What are my reasons for wanting to say yes?
2. What are my reasons for wanting to say no?
3. What activities am I (are we) willing to give up in order to be a presenting couple?
4. Am I (are we) free to say yes at this time in light of our jobs and our family situation?
5. Do I (we) believe strongly in the vision, mission, and values of Lutheran Marriage Encounter?
6. Where am I (are we) with daily dialogue?
7. What are my (our) expectations of being a presenting couple?
8. Am I open to living the Marriage Encounter lifestyle?

FOR DIALOGUE: What are my strongest feelings, right now, about being a presenting couple? Describe your feelings in loving detail.

CALL YOUR KICKOFF I PRESENTERS WITH YOUR ANSWER WHETHER YES OR NO BY THIS DATE\_\_\_\_\_.