

# 4 Secrets To Building Lasting Marriages In Your Church

Every pastor and church leader knows the importance of helping couples build strong marriages. Healthy marriages are the foundation of a healthy church. But, as a pastor or church leader, you know one thing is true: you have a lot on your plate and you're working hard tending to multiple needs within your church.

**How can you find time to minister to marriages?**

The good news is, you **CAN** help the couples in your church build and strengthen their marriages and you don't have to do it alone. Here are four tips to help you get started building a solid marriage ministry in your church.

# 1

## Don't Try To Do It Alone

**Build A Team!** Recruit several couples from your church who have a heart for marriage. I promise you, they're there, right in your own church community.

These aren't the folks that say they have a perfect marriage therefore they want to show everyone else how to have a marriage just like theirs. If you have one of those couples offer to serve in your marriage ministry, kindly respond with a "thanks, but no thanks!"

You want the couples who have been through a couple fires and come out on the other side. The couples who have come through a few battles with a few scars to prove it. The difference for these couples is they held on to God through it all and have experienced firsthand his redemptive power. These are the couples who can speak into the lives of young couples who are just starting out, and sit across the room from the husbands and wives who are struggling and wondering how they are going to make it...or if they even want to. Look for the couples who have faced some challenges can honestly say, "We've been where you are and we're here to tell you God is bigger than any problem you are facing. You may not have the faith that your marriage can be saved right now, but we do because we've seen what God did in our own marriage."

Not every couple in your church needing to connect with a marriage mentor will be in the middle of a crisis. But, if and when they are, your mentor team will be prepared to walk with them and offer living proof that God cares about and saves marriages.

# 1 Don't Try To Do It Alone

Depending on the size of your church, you may only need to recruit two or three couples. If you have a large, growing congregation, host a marriage mentoring dessert night and invite couples to come and hear about how they can help other couples build and strengthen their marriages. For a church with an average adult attendance of 1,000 – 2,000, work toward building a team of 10 to 12 mentor couples.

The Complete Resource Kit for Marriage Mentoring is our favorite tool for helping churches train up and equip a team of marriage mentors to serve the couples in your church community.

*Marriage experts Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott have done all the work for you and put the information and resources you'll need together in an easy-to-follow program.*



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# 2 Help Couples Get Off To A Good Start

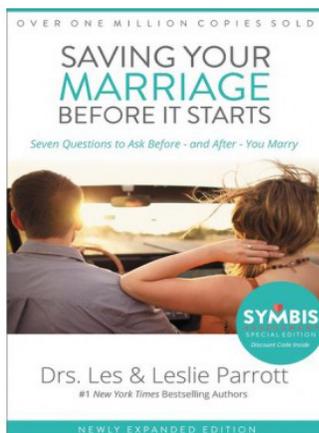
The most important weapon you have in the fight against divorce is helping couples prepare for marriage.

But it's not enough to just meet with an engaged couple a few times before the ceremony and ask them a few questions. They need to spend as much, if not more time on preparing to spend the rest of their lives together as husband and wife as they do picking out the color of the bridesmaid dresses and reception location.

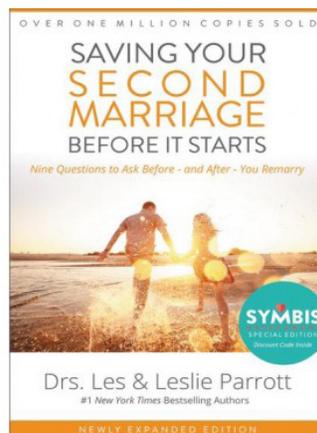
And for couples entering into a second marriage, it's even more important for them to learn the biblical principles for building a healthy marriage. In many cases, these couples will be blending two families together, which takes more effort and commitment than most couples could ever imagine.

Make sure you have trained marriage mentor couples available to meet with engaged couples and take them through a comprehensive premarital study. This is the most effective way to ensure these couples will succeed in marriage. It's

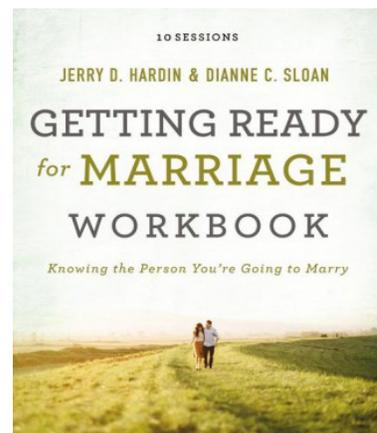
*Here are our top picks for helping couples get off to a great start:*



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# 3

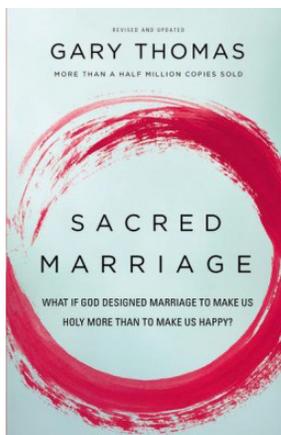
## Keeping Love Alive

Now that you have a team of marriage mentors in place, recruit one or two couples to take the lead in establishing an ongoing marriage ministry. It doesn't take a huge budget or a lot of effort to give couples the opportunity to connect with other couples in the church and continue learning about how to keep their marriages going strong.

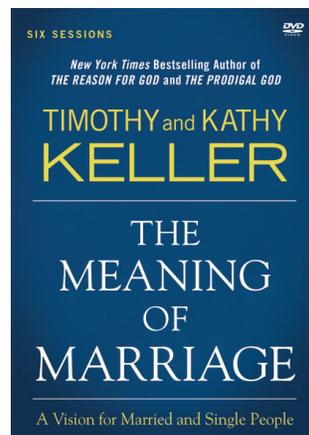
When most couples end up in crisis, it didn't happen overnight. Typically, marriages start to get off-track and most couples just don't have the knowledge or the tools to get it back on track. By offering Bible-based marriage studies at your church on an ongoing basis you are communicating loud and clear: "Your marriage is important to us!"

When planning your church programs for the year, be sure to plug one or two marriage studies into the calendar. Throw in the occasional "Married Couples Dessert Date Night" or an annual "Sweetheart Dinner" for fun! It's a great way for couples that are new to the church to meet other couples, get plugged in, and enjoy a time of fellowship.

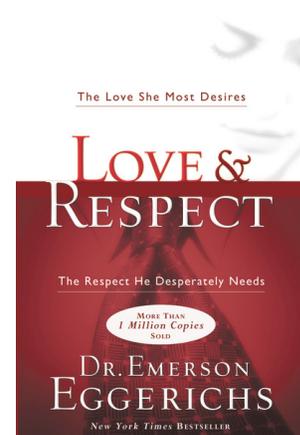
*Here are our top picks for Biblically—based marriage enrichment studies:*



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# 4

## Couples In Crisis: Be Prepared

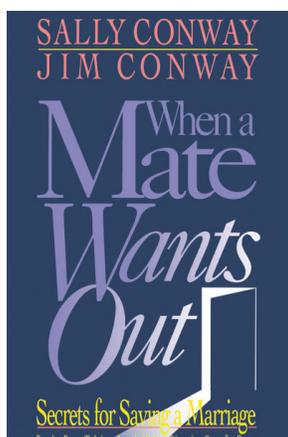
It's not a matter of *if*, but *when* a couple will call or walk through the door of your church with a major crisis. Adultery, pornography, addictions, bankruptcy, the loss of a loved one, troubled—teens the list of issues that can cause a major crisis in a marriage goes on and on.

All the more reason you need a trained team of marriage mentors ready and willing to step in and come alongside these couples to help them through their troubled time.

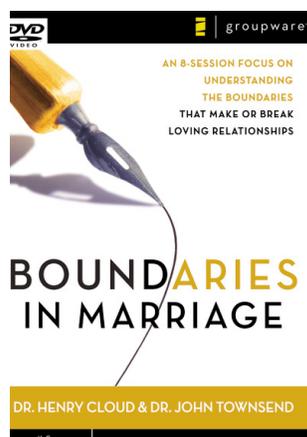
Marriage mentors will not be trained to help couples deal with severe issues, but they can help bring a sense of comfort and hope to the couple, as well as guidance in helping them find a licensed, Christian counselor or Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) to help them through their crisis. Be sure to do your research in advance and have a list of local, professional counselors your team can refer to.

It's never easy walking with a couple through a difficult time in their marriage. But, the more you can equip your marriage mentors, the more prepared they will be.

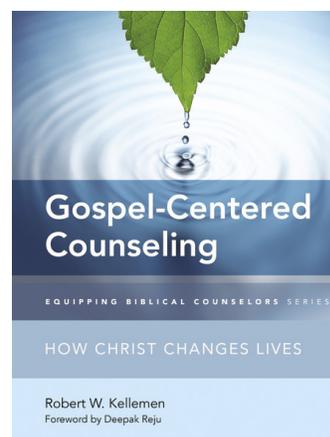
*Here are our top picks for helping your mentors prepare for those couples they encounter in crisis:*



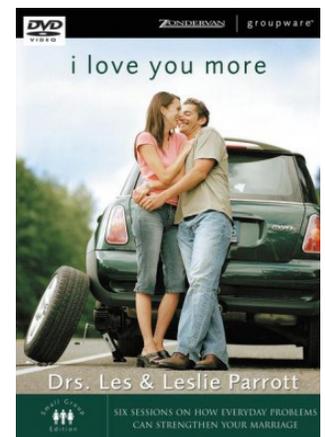
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Need help finding marriage resources for the couples and mentors in your church?

Contact us today at 800-524-1588, or email [ResourceSpecialist@ChurchSource.com](mailto:ResourceSpecialist@ChurchSource.com)

As a pastor or church leader dedicated to ministering to marriages, you will be helping:

- Engaged and newly married couples build a strong foundation that will serve them for the rest of their lives,
- Husbands and wives learn how to place God at the center of their marriage and leave a legacy of love for their own children and future generations,
- Couples in crisis experience God's redeeming grace and love in their own marriages, and
- Make a significant difference in winning the war on divorce...one marriage at a time.

**ChurchSource is here to help you find the books, Bibles, and marriage resources you need so you can focus on what God has called you to do—minister to marriages.**



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**Building strong marriages starts with having the right tools!**

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