

## Center Point Church Resources

### ***The Art of Marriage***

The Art of Marriage (by Family Life Ministries) is a video event built on the same biblically-based content as the Weekend to Remember marriage getaway hosted at the Gaylord every year. Designed to be used by churches, small groups, or as a community wide event, The Art of Marriage equips couples to build godly marriages so they can fully experience God's design for marriage. The Art of Marriage consists of six video sessions and an accompanying manual that provides couples with projects to help apply the principles taught during each session. The manual is also designed for couples to use after the event by offering articles, date night ideas, and useful tips for continuing to strengthen their marriage. Generally speaking, we offer this study every Fall and Spring. **Check the Mid-Week line-up and calendar to see start dates.**

### **Home Teams**

Home Teams are small groups that provide a way to live out your faith in the context of spiritual community. God-centered small groups are essential to your spiritual development. Consider finding a home team to help you develop the right kind of relationships to help you live for God.

If you go to our website at [centerpointchurch.com](http://centerpointchurch.com)

- Click on "Online Forms" tab
- Click on "Sign Up For Anything"
- Click on "Home Team Connection" link.

Fill that out, and one of our connection champions will start you on your journey of getting connected.

# Engaged

*Getting Ready for Marriage*

HOME  LIFE

Building Strong Families

# Getting Ready for Marriage

Congratulations on this wonderful milestone. Few seasons in life are filled with as much joy and anticipation as the time spent preparing to get married.

You've probably heard it said that as you plan your wedding, you shouldn't forget to plan your marriage. But it sounds so abstract to "plan a marriage" in the midst of the more tangible (and demanding) project of planning a wedding. How do you do it?

## **STEP ONE: Learn from others**

Research demonstrates the long-term value of making time now for marriage education classes or premarital counseling. Those efforts go even further when you supplement them by spending time with an older married couple whose relationship you admire.

## **STEP TWO: Plan with patience**

Couples often overlook the importance of using the wedding planning season as practical marriage preparation. You can intentionally set the tone for your marriage by the values you live out in planning your big day. The transformational process of "becoming one" can occur in everything from how you assemble your guest list to how you determine a honeymoon destination.

## **STEP THREE: Discover the purpose of marriage**

A wedding is bigger than you as an individual and even bigger than you both as a couple. Ephesians 5 describes a couple laying down their lives for one another and becoming one as an icon of God's sacrificial love for His church. That's the counter-cultural call of Christian marriage. Read *The Marriage Masterpiece* by Al Janssen in order to discover the beautiful picture God intends every marriage to reflect.

## **STEP FOUR: Create a meaningful event**

To focus on the sacred nature of marriage in the early church couples often stood during the course of a weekly service to exchange their vows. Those weddings were a part of the community of faith's worship routine and a public vow within a church body.

They did not have anything resembling the grand ceremonies typical of modern weddings, focusing instead on the meaning and purpose of marriage. That's not to say big celebrations are out of order, but many risk making them so complex that they fail to honor God or the community they are uniting – both of which are the basis for a strong Christian marriage.

## **GOING FURTHER – Resources**

### **Recommended Books:**

***The Marriage Masterpiece*** (by Al Janssen) is a great book. The Bible opens and closes with a wedding and in between God uses the metaphor of marriage more than any other to describe His relationship with His people. So what does that mean for your pending marriage? Al Janssen tells the bigger story of marriage as God created it and as couples can experience it.

***Love and Respect*** (by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs) discusses a powerful biblical model for each spouse understanding and meeting the other's most deeply felt need.

***Before You Say "I Do"*** (by H. Norman Wright and Wes Roberts) explores how to clarify role expectations, establish a healthy sexual relationship, handle finances, and acquire a solid understanding of how to develop a biblical relationship.

**Recommended Website:** ***CoupleCheckup.com*** features the Prepare & Enrich tools for dating and engaged couples who want to establish a strong foundation for marriage.