

GOING FURTHER

VALLEYDALE SUPPORT

Life Groups

Valleydale offers Adult Life Groups for singles as well as groups combining singles and married couples. There are also life groups for newlyweds and “nearly-weds”. To get connected to a group or for more information, either stop by the Next Steps Desk in the lobby or go to www.valleydale.org/lifegroups and click on “Find a Life Group”.

Spring 2021 Midweek

This Spring, Valleydale will offer a 5-week session on the family. Topics include “Theology of the Home” and “Marriage: the Cornerstone of the Home”, among others. It will be offered twice: March 10 – April 14 and April 21 – May 19. For more information, visit www.valleydale.org/events.

Pre-Marital Counseling

For couples who are engaged and planning to be married. Talk to a pastor that you have a connection with or contact the church at 205.991.5282 for more information about scheduling.

Schedule A Wedding

For more information on scheduling a wedding in a Valleydale facility or with a Valleydale pastor, call the church at 205.991.5282.

Podcasts

“How to Handle Marital Problems” *(Search for “Valleydale Church” on Youtube and select “Playlists.” Find the given title under the “ONEFamily” series.)*

“Minding Your Marriage Series”

(Visit Valleydale.org/resources. Select “Minding Your Marriage” for 5 unique messages.)

For more
resources, visit
valleydale.org/family
OR
visit our resource
center in the
lobby

ENGAGED

Getting Ready for Marriage



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 pre-marital 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. Consider beginning the habit of a weekly date night or times of intentional connection to set a foundation for your marriage.

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. Consider reading one of the books suggested in the *Going Further* section together to deepen your understanding of the larger purpose of your union.

STEP FOUR

Create a Meaningful Event

Our culture today can often put more emphasis on "the big day" than preparing for a lifetime together. 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.

During this special time of engagement, be intentional to draw close to the Lord and each other as you establish a firm foundation for your marriage.

GOING FURTHER

RESOURCES

Love and Respect

by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Before you Say "I Do"

by Dr. John Trent

When Sinners Say "I Do"

by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

Getting Ready for Marriage

by Jim Burns & Doug Fields

Sacred Marriage (book & workbook)

by Gary Thomas

CoupleCheckup.com

Features the Prepare & Enrich tools for dating and engaged couples who want to establish a strong foundation for marriage.