

Leading a Fortified Marriages Small Group/Marriage Class

Frequently Asked Questions

Facilitating and leading a Fortified Marriages small group/ marriage class is not difficult. The information below will help you begin and lead a couple's small group or a marriage class. Contact Fortified Marriages Ministry if you need more information.

Question: *What are the qualifications for a facilitator?*

Answer: *Availability, commitment, a willing spirit and a desire to be used by God in couple's lives. Both husband and wife should be committed to leading the group.*

Question: *Do I need the gift of teaching or a great knowledge of the Bible?*

Answer: *No, a facilitator guides the discussion of the questions at the end of each study. All the information you need is in the study and the application of the information will come out in the discussion.*

Question: *Does our marriage have to be perfect?*

Answer: *No one's marriage is or ever will be perfect. It is important that your marriage is growing and maturing and that you pray together as a couple. Your openness, honesty and transparency about your marriage relationship will help the other couples open up and be honest about their relationships.*

Question: *What does it take to get started?*

Answer: *Select a time and a place for your meeting and begin inviting couples (friends, neighbors or church members) to attend. Bulletin announcements and flyers help, but a personal invitation is important to help couples understand the need to learn Biblical principles for their marriages.*

Question: *How long should the small/ group marriage class continue?*

Answer: *There are 52 studies in the workbook. A small group may want to take a year to complete the book, while a class may complete the book in six months by completing two studies a week. We have found that couples usually want to continue working together once they complete the workbook. The resource section at the end of the book provides many possible books to continue the small group study.*

Question: *Do I have to begin at the beginning of the workbook?*

Answer: *It is important to begin at the beginning and continue through the book in order. There is a progression in the book and it is important to build the foundation first, before continuing with the later subjects.*

Question: *How do I facilitate the group or class discussion?*

Answer: *Sitting in a circle provides the most conducive discussion environment. The following are general meeting guidelines.*

- *Begin in prayer.*
- *Ask for any general comments or questions about the study.*
- *Briefly highlight the main points of the study.*
- *Ask the study questions. You may want to probe some when an answer is not clear.*
- *Encourage everyone to contribute and don't let one person monopolize the discussion.*
- *Emphasize important points participants make.*

- *Don't ridicule or put anyone down for his or her answers.*
- *Close the meeting in prayer.*

Question: *What are the guidelines for the discussion?*

Answer: *Covering the following points at your first meeting will help couples adjust to the discussion style of the book.*

- *Discussion of the questions as a couple before coming to the group meeting is important.*
- *Active participation is encouraged, but not required.*
- *Avoid giving and seeking advice and judgment.*
- *All discussion is confidential and must remain within the group.*
- *Look inward at what you need to change, not at your spouse.*
- *Be open to God's leading about what you need to change in your life.*
- *Be honest with God, yourself and your spouse as you work through the material.*
- *Pray for members of the group.*

Question: *How can I better prepare myself to lead a group or class?*

Answer: *While not required, you may want to participate in a small group leader's workshop or read a book about leading a small group. You may continue your education and training by reading some of the books referred to throughout Fortified Marriages and attend marriage seminars and conferences whenever possible.*