

Marriage Preparation

Five Lessons

Teaching and Resource Materials

The main resource for teaching these courses is "Eternal Marriage" Student Manual which can be purchased at the Distribution Center or the BYU Book Store. It is recommended that students as well as the instructors obtain a copy of this book to make the most out of the course.

Lesson One – Men and Women’s Divine Roles and Responsibility

Objective: To help class member understand that both men and women play individual and unique roles in God’s Plan. Both fulfilling their responsibility in their own role is the celestial way of the Lord.

Supporting Ideas:

- The role of men and woman in marriage
- What is priesthood leadership in the home?
- The virtues of priesthood leadership. D&C 121
- The divine role of motherhood
- The proclamation on the family is revelation for our time.

Selected Readings from “Eternal Marriage” Student Manual:

- Selected Teaching – pp. 83-88, 200, 347
- Family Proclamation – p. 83
- Equality of Men and Woman – p. 79
- “Father, Consider Your Ways” – p. 200
- “To the Fathers in Israel” – p. 203
- “Being a Righteous Husband and Father” – p. 206
- “Our Sacred Duty to Honor Woman” – p. 212
- “The Hands of the Fathers” – p. 215
- “The Divine Work of Women” – p. 347
- “What is a Help Meet?” – p. 349
- “The Role of Righteous Women” – p. 349
- “We are Women of God” – p. 364

Lesson Two – Building a Celestial Marriage – Part I

Objective: To help class members learn that marriage and the family is the place where we practice and keep the covenants we make in the temple.

Supporting Ideas:

- Mate selection – Good marriages start with choosing the right partner
- Creating our own family traditions and activities
- Family Prayer
- Family Home Evening
- Personal and family scripture study
- Attending church regularly

- ↪ Attending the temple regularly
- ↪ Family recreation – Learning to play together

Selected Readings from “Eternal Marriage” Student Manual:

- ↪ Mate Selection – pp. 188-193
- ↪ Traditions of the Fathers – pp. 337-339
- ↪ Selected Teachings on Faith, Prayer, Repentance, and Forgiveness – pp. 84-88
- ↪ Family Home Evening – p. 243
- ↪ “Keeping Life’s Demands in Balance” – p. 280
- ↪ “The Holy Temple” – p. 318
- ↪ Principle of Wholesome Recreational Activities – p. 97

Lesson Three – Building a Celestial Marriage – Part II

Objective: To help class members understand that marriage is a sacred relationship which requires sacrifice and work to maintain the warmth and respect enjoyed during the courtship.

Supporting Ideas:

- ↪ Good marriages don’t just happen. They require working together.
- ↪ Problem solving in Marriage – Conflict resolution
- ↪ Building a partnership in your marriage (Being “equally yoked”)
- ↪ Being selfless as a marriage partner
- ↪ Showing compassion and forgiveness in marriage
- ↪ Fulfilling your partners needs
- ↪ Setting common goals, values, and expectations
- ↪ Developing good communication skills

Selected Readings from “Eternal Marriage” student manual:

- ↪ Love – pp. 154-162
- ↪ “Forgiveness: The Ultimate Form of Love” – p. 89
- ↪ “Beware of Pride” – p. 269
- ↪ Trust in Marriage – p. 342
- ↪ Unity – pp. 344-345
- ↪ “Our Covenant Based Relationship with the Lord” – p. 40
- ↪ “Covenant Marriage” – p. 47
- ↪ Communications – pp. 31-35

Lesson Four – Managing Finances As a Couple

“*One for the Money*” Guide to Family Finance by Elder Marvin J. Ashton is a small pamphlet that can serve as a valuable resource for this lesson.

Objective: To help class members learn to manage money before it manages them. To learn self-discipline and self-restraint in money matters.

Supporting Ideas: ____

- ↳ Making good financial decisions
- ↳ Getting and staying out of debt
- ↳ Which kinds of debt are appropriate
- ↳ Saving money
- ↳ Employment and finances
- ↳ Paying tithing and fast offerings

Selected Readings from “Eternal Marriage” student manual:

- ↳ Finances – pp. 115-120
- ↳ Debt – pp. 59-60
- ↳ Employment and finances – p. 329

Lesson Five – Adjusting to Marriage

Objective: To help class members understand that bringing two lives together to form a new independent family requires concentrated effort with both partners working, sharing and communicating together in a loving and giving relationship.

Supporting Ideas:

- ↳ Dealing with the new “in-laws”.
- ↳ Building good in-law relationships
- ↳ Working out holiday visits
- ↳ Being independent as a married couple. Making your own decisions, but taking parental counsel.
- ↳ What does it mean to “leave and cleave”. (Spending time together as a couple.)
- ↳ Fidelity in marriage
- ↳ Intimacy
 - ↳ What is appropriate during courtship?
 - ↳ Purposes of intimacy
 - ↳ Building spiritual bonds in marriage
 - ↳ Bringing children into the marriage
 - ↳ Birth control

Selected Readings from “Eternal Marriage” student manual:

- ↳ Adjustments in Marriage – pp. 9-10
- ↳ Fidelity in Marriage – pp. 111-113
- ↳ Intimacy in Marriage – pp. 139-141
- ↳ Birth Control – pp. 14-17
- ↳ Dating Standards – pp. 51-52
- ↳ 17 Rules for Celestial Dating – see attached

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