



Dear very-wed, newly-wed or nearly-wed couple,

We are so glad you are interested in learning about Real Life Marriage 2x2 Mentoring. Here is how it works:

After you have read this handout and if you agree with our goals, each of you will fill out a mentoree application (attached) and return them in a sealed envelope to the Family Ministries Administrative Assistant, Shannon Winters. Your forms will be reviewed by the staff couple and the lay couple only who lead this ministry. No one else will see your confidential forms. After careful and prayerful consideration, you will be paired with a trained mentor couple who appears to be compatible with you. Both you and your mentor couple will be notified of the pairing, and you can expect to hear from your mentor couple to set a time to meet and get acquainted. The pairing process usually takes two to three weeks.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

Barby Westmoreland, Family Life Coach
912-634-7049 or 912-617-2381.

Answers To Common Questions About Real Life Marriage 2x2 Mentoring

The Mission of Real Life Marriage

Equipping couples to live out a God-honoring marriage covenant.

What is Real Life Marriage 2x2?

Pairing a less experienced couple who wants and needs encouragement with a trained couple who desires to help maximize marriages to the full extent of their potential. When two couples such as these are paired and form a trusting relationship, BOTH marriages benefit!

Who are the Real Life Marriage Mentors?

Committed Christian couples from SSCC who are passionate about the sanctity, reality, and vitality of marriage as God intended it to be. Mentor Couples are the first to admit that their marriages are not perfect, but they are eager to share the experience, strength and hope they have gained through real life experience and ongoing training. Each Mentor Couple has completed an eight-hour course in marriage mentoring and continues to participate in an on-going training program. They are eager to be linked with a less experienced couple to share what they have learned and to encourage and equip them with practical relationship skills and Biblical principles of marriage. When this happens, BOTH marriages are enriched.

Who Should Have a Real Life Marriage 2x2 Mentor?

Engaged couples - to help them prepare, lay a firm foundation, and get off to a good start for a life-long, Christ-centered marriage.

Married couples who are experiencing the **normal challenges of marriage**, such as being newly weds, having a new baby, starting a new job, in-law issues, financial concerns, communication problems and other "bumps in the road" that arise in every marriage and family. A Real Life Marriage Mentor can encourage them and can share their own acquired experience and wisdom.

Married couples who want to take their marriage from **good to great** would benefit from a Real Life Marriage Mentor and could also challenge the Mentor in an "iron sharpens iron," trusting and stimulating, relationship to the benefit of both marriages.

Every married couple could benefit from Real Life Marriage 2x2 Mentoring!!!

Who should NOT have a Real Life Marriage 2x2 Mentor?

Married couples who are in **acute crisis** or considering separation or divorce should first call the Counselor on Staff/Family Life Coach at SSCC for assessment of the conflict, strategy planning for possible resolution,

maximum protection of both parties and children, and referral to appropriate professionals, if necessary.

Four general areas of critical concern are: adultery, alcoholism, abuse or abandonment. However, if recommitment to the marriage can be established and conflict resolution is underway, a Real Life Marriage Mentor can be a great support to marriage counseling in learning and practicing new and healthier relationship skills.

How long will mentoring last?

We expect the formal mentoring relationship to last about six months. The two couples can choose a mutually satisfactory time and place. We recommend that you meet weekly for the first month, at least bi-weekly for the next 2 – 4 months and then at least once a month. Usually by the time the sixth month rolls around you will have formed such a close and loving relationship with your mentor couple that it will only be natural to stay in touch and to always feel free to call them on an

“as-needed” basis. If, at the end of six months you, your mentor couple, and the lead couples feel an extension of formal mentoring would be beneficial, that is certainly a possibility.

Why is regular meeting important?

The fact that you are reading this letter says that you are interested in improving and strengthening your marriage. This can only happen by making your marriage relationship a priority. Our 2x2 mentors are committed to help make a difference in your marriage; they have been trained and continue to train monthly to be equipped to do so. For each of our mentor couples, marriage mentoring is a priority. If you choose to enter a mentoring relationship, we hope and expect that you will make it a priority also. Busyness is the great enemy of marriage priority, and we expect mentoree couples to be pro-active in protecting their time-starved marriage by being committed to the mentoring process for at least six months.

Whether you are interested in preparing for marriage, maximizing your marriage, or repairing your marriage, we hope you are challenged and excited about entering a Real Life Marriage 2x2 mentoring relationship.

Mentoree Application - Real Life Marriage 2x2

Please take a moment to complete this confidential form so we can make the best match possible. **Each of you needs to complete a separate form.**

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Highest Education _____ School _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Wedding date (Month/Day/Year) _____

Previous marriage(s)? Yes No *If yes, explain* _____

Rate your current marriage/relationship? (Not Happy) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Very Happy)

Reason for applying? Preparing for marriage Maximizing your marriage Repairing your marriage

Who referred you to Real Life Marriage 2x2 _____

Do you consider yourself a Christian? Yes No Current church home _____

Do you have any children? Yes No *If yes, provide names, ages and genders* _____

List your hobbies and interests (important for making a good match) _____

In specific terms, what are you hoping marriage mentoring will do for you and your marriage? What do you hope to gain? Any specific goals/problems/issues? Any things you would like to see changed? _____

Do you have any unusual scheduling issues that could impact when you can meet with your mentors? _____

Enclose both forms in a sealed envelope marked "Attention: Family Life Coach" and return to the Family Ministries Administrative Assistant, Shannon Winters. Thank you for providing us with this confidential information. You will hear from us soon.

FOR LEADERSHIP USE ONLY

Mentor Couple _____

Date paired _____

Date released _____

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Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

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