

Learning Activity: Small Group Discussion

- ❖ What would you tell others (clients, families, other people you know) about the importance of premarital/marital education?
- ❖ If you would not recommend premarital/marital education to others, why not?
- ❖ What limitations do you see in using these types of programs in your agency, organization, community, church, etc.?

Learning Activity: Vignettes

Vignette #1

Kent(25) and Sarah (24) have been dating for 2 years. The couple is eager to “tie the knot” and create a family of their own. This will be the first marriage for both members of the couple. Kent and Phyllis have several area’s that they would like to “fix” before the wedding, which is just four months away. The couple has trouble communicating about financial issues. Kent would like to start a college saving’s account for their children while Phyllis is more concerned with immediate financial needs. The couple is also having difficulty dividing up the household chores. When the couple attempts to discuss these issues, Sarah cries and Kent leaves the house for several hours leaving Sarah to worry about his whereabouts.

Which premarital/marital education program would this couple be appropriate for?

Vignette #2

Kevin(55) and Christina(53) are the parents of three children. The youngest child just started college two months ago leaving the couple alone for the first time in twenty-two years. The couple has difficulty discussing any subject other than the children. With the children leading their own lives the couple is quickly running out of things to talk about. Kevin feels like they have very little in common anymore and wonders how he didn’t notice this before. Christina reminisces about their dating years and wonders how to regain that excitement in the marriage. Although Kevin is financially ready to retire he is concerned about what will happen to the marital relationship with “all that time together.”

Which premarital/marital education program would this couple be appropriate for?

Vignette #3

Sheryl (31) has two children from previous marriages (Lisa, 3 and Heather 5). Sheryl would like to begin dating but does not trust herself to pick out a partner who will treat her and the children well. She is terrified of the possibility of yet another divorce. Sheryl’s previous husbands were verbally and mentally abusive.

Which premarital/marital education program would this couple be appropriate for?

Vignette #4

Emily (19) and Juan (22) met in high school. The couple has two children together ages 1 and 4. Emily dropped out of high school when she became pregnant with their daughter. The couple has contemplated getting married but feel they have a few obstacles in their way. Both Emily and Juan work outside the home and Juan's mother helps with child-care. The couple argues daily about money, chores, and discipline. Emily is feeling worn out by working, being a full-time mom, and trying to complete her GED. She wishes Juan would help more with the children and the household chores. Juan works fulltime and at the end of the workday is ready to relax. He knows Emily is tired, but so is he, and Emily's constant nagging does nothing to soothe his work-day blues. Juan is tired of having the same conversation over and over again and never getting anywhere.

What premarital/marital education program is couple appropriate for?