

## GOING FURTHER

CHERRY STREET BAPTIST SUPPORT

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### Sunday School

The Sunday School ministry of CSBC offers direction to individuals in every season of life by helping them move toward maturity through the systematic study of God's Word. Sunday School allows for a small group setting where questions can be asked, relationships can be built, and encouragement can take place. Please contact the CSBC office at 417.889.1999 for questions regarding enrolling in one of our Sunday school classes.

### Premarital Counseling

Premarital counseling is essential for couples who are serious about equipping their future marriage for spiritual and relational success. While premarital counseling is not mandatory from the world's perspective, it is a wisdom choice that demonstrates genuine love, maturity, and transparency from each spouse-to-be. Call the church office at 417.889.1999 to schedule an appointment with one of our pastors.

## ENGAGED

### *Getting Ready for Marriage*



Faith@Home



# GETTING READY FOR MARRIAGE

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**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 premarital 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 marriage 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 to each other as you establish a firm foundation for your marriage.

# GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

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***Before You Say "I Do": A Marriage Preparation Manual for Couples***  
by H. Norman Wright and Wes Roberts

***When Sinners Say "I Do": Discovering the Power of the Gospel  
for Marriage***  
by Dave Harvey

***Getting Ready for Marriage: A Practical Road Map  
for Your Journey Together (Book & Workbook)***  
by Jim Burns and Doug Fields

***Lovology: God. Love. Marriage. Sex. And the Never-Ending Story  
of Male and Female***  
by John Mark Comer

Gives a biblical vision for sexual intimacy and marriage and tackles difficult questions related to human sexuality.