

### The Sacrament of Marriage Project

*Engaged: Occupation*

*Starting Salary*

*Wedding Budget*

*Bank: Home Loan*

_____	_____	<u>\$20,000</u>	_____
_____	_____		

Savings Account: 5% of your salary/ person: Total Allowance to use anywhere = \_\_\_\_\_  
Prior to his project, the groom purchased an engagement ring using 2% of his salary. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario:

Your college journey is now an immeasurable memory of success, relief, and love. You have found the “person” of your dreams. You are now engaged and have set a date for \_\_\_\_\_. After a long Spring, you and your fiancé are starting to plan your life together. You cannot believe that after 20 years of education- you can finally start your life. You are beginning to start you wedding plans and trying to find a place to live. With the salaries that the both of you make, you have a realistic budget to work with.

Congratulations, you are now engaged. Gentleman, find the engagement ring of your fiancé's dreams. Provide a picture of your ring that is up to 2 % of your salary. Fiancé's: give him one opportunity to do this. If it becomes a lost cause, help him-please. This is free money. Speaking of rings, you must budget money from your savings account for your wedding bands.

**Objectives: This is a 4 week activity.**

**The Sacrament of Marriage Project will be organized into a website.** Students can log in at <http://students.weebly.com>

1. Read the entire packet.
2. **Thoroughly analyze/write out** the 19 questions that are provided within part 1. You must realize that this is an activity. I realize that the person that you are working with may only be an acquaintance- but, more importantly, answer the above questions with an accurate personal assessment of your stance on each question. You are answering these questions as **individuals**—thinking in the future tense (not answering them as a couple)
3. **Thoroughly analyze/write out** the 8 questions that are provided within part 2. You will answer this as individuals. Hence, the girl answers from her perspective; the boy answers from his perspective.
4. **Thoroughly analyze/write out** the 11 questions that are provided within section 3. You can answer these together. One copy is expected.
5. **Thoroughly analyze/write out** the 4 questions that are provided within part 4. Answer these as individuals.
6. Create a game plan. Who will do what aspect of the project? Ask and answer some of the basic questions. You will receive individual grades based upon daily performance, and final written assessments- but you still have to work together. Research and decide how much money you will have to budget for all the categories for your wedding plan. Also, research and decide how much money you will have to budget for all the categories for your living accommodations.
7. You will provide a picture and any information for **the big ideas** of your wedding.
  - a. Wedding budget sheet: Including notes, print-outs
    - i. Include pictures and print-outs of the collaboration of wedding items
  - b. Home budget sheet: Including notes, print-outs
    - i. Include pictures and print-outs of the collaboration of living accommodations.
8. Complete your marriage license.
9. Analyze and write out the questions provided below, Along with providing a final collaborative journal, and survey.

## Part. 1 Communicating About What?

**Thoroughly analyze** the questions that are provided within the activity. You must realize that this is an activity. I realize that the person that you are working with may only be an acquaintance- but, more importantly, answer the below questions with an accurate personal assessment of your stance on each question. (Future Tense)

- ❑ **1. Do we agree about the roles that men and women play in marriage?** If a wife needs or wants to work and the husband refuses to take equal responsibility for household chores, trouble is likely. The couple must know what each person expects about roles in the marriage. Compromise is always necessary; that means give-and-take on both sides. In addition, men and women are not static. Changing roles will require adjustments. For instance, a wife may be offered a promotion that requires a move. This change in status will require a commitment to mutual decision-making. If the couple has not worked out some understanding before marriage, the relationship could rupture.
- ❑ **2. Do we have the support of our families?** When two persons marry, they become part of each other's family. They need time to get to know future in-laws; to build solid, healthy relationships with them; and to anticipate what it will be like to be part of an extended family. Any concerns about disliking future in-laws, finding them too demanding, or feeling judged by them need plenty of discussion and resolution by the couple because the rest of their lives will be bound with their in-laws' lives to some degree.
- ❑ **3. Are we too young?** Teenage marriages have a poor chance of lasting. If two teenagers do not have a strong sense of their own identity, marriage between them means that two immature, impressionable persons have entered into a situation demanding maturity, responsibility, and competence. The strain can be too much for the relationship. Furthermore, people who marry before they have had a chance to study, work, travel, or date several people may eventually resent the loss of their young adulthood. This resentment can also cripple a marriage.
- ❑ **4. Can we both tolerate genuine intimacy?** Intimacy is essential for a lasting marriage. Marriage demands emotional, sexual, spiritual, and intellectual intimacy *at the very least*. However, some people cannot tolerate very much closeness. One who is seriously dating another person should ask these additional questions:
  - a. Do either of us avoid dates that include just the two of us together?
  - b. Do we share significant experiences?
  - c. Can we talk comfortably for long periods of time?
  - d. Can we relax together and not have to talk or do something?
  - e. Are our needs for closeness somewhat similar?
- ❑ **5. Can each of us accept change in the other?** Change is inevitable. If one-person changes and the other cannot accept that change, the relationship is in jeopardy. One should consider how the other person reacts to a change of mind or anew interest.
- ❑ **6. Can each of us stand psychologically on our own two feet?** Marriages have been destroyed when one of the partners is dominated by his or her parents, a boss, or a group of old friends. So a person needs to look carefully at these questions:
  - f. How do our parents (both sets) relate to their other married children?
  - g. Do the parents or boss or old friends of either of us seek control of our time, energy, or resources to the detriment of our relationship?Marriage counselors report that the problem of being psychologically tied to others in an unhealthy way, particularly to parents and old friends, is more common than people admit it to be.
- ❑ **7. Do we give each other time and space to be on our own-alone or with our own friends?** Marriage or any healthy relationship relies on each person's retaining her or his own identity. In fact, good relationships enhance each person's identity. Two full persons share themselves in marriage. Some further questions can help to address this larger issue:
  - h. Do we encourage each other to pursue our respective interests, or are one person's interests always primary?
  - i. Do both of us consider each other's needs important?
  - j. Is either of us jealous or possessive?

k. Do either of us resent the demands placed on us by our partner and feel smothered at times?

l. Do either of us feel like nothing when the two of us are apart?

If you cannot live without your partner, or vice versa, you should seriously reconsider the relationship; you may not have explored sufficiently the fullness of the persons that you are. Marriage is not the absorption of one person's life by another.

- **8. What part would children play in our marriage?** Children are an important consideration before marriage. Parenthood is intensely demanding. Both persons must be willing to assume such a responsibility. To further clarify this important question, one should ask these additional questions:
  - m. Do we both want to have children?
  - n. How many children would we want?
  - o. Do we agree about child-rearing issues?
  - p. Do we both have the same attitudes about birth control?
  - q. How would we deal with an unplanned pregnancy?
  
- **9. What role will sexual expression have for us?** Sexual desire varies from person to person. For most of us, passion is not a machine that we can switch on at any time. A woman and a man who are considering marriage must discuss their expectations about sex.
  
- **10. Can both of us confront our problems head-on and then let bygones be bygones?** Problems that are allowed to fester can cause havoc in a relationship. If two persons have the ability to air problems, even little ones, as they arise, the relationship will be much better. Once problems have been talked through, it is important to let the anger and frustration end forever.
  
- **11. Do both of us show personal integrity?** This is a time to observe each other's character traits. If someone cheats, lies, gambles excessively, or manipulates others before marriage, chances are almost 100 percent that they will do so afterward. *One of the worst mistakes that people can make is to think that marriage will reform someone with little integrity.* Marriage usually does not change habitual patterns of behavior. In particular, people need to take a hard look at substance abuse. Of twenty thousand divorced people surveyed, 44 percent declared that alcohol or drug abuse played a major role in causing the divorce. Here are some useful questions to consider: Do either of us:
  - a. have to drink to relax?
  - b. drink when problems arise?
  - c. have to have several drinks each evening? Get drunk a lot?
  - d. insist that the other person drink?
  - e. find it impossible to stop at one drink? Drink quickly?
  - f. drive under the influence of alcohol?These same questions apply to drug use. If the answer is yes to any of these questions, your relationship may face serious problems.
  
- **12. Does one of us have to be the boss all the time?** Marriage should be a commitment between equals. Partners should ask these questions:
  - g. Do either of us insist on having our way all the time?
  - h. Do either of us feel ordered around or supervised by our own partner?
  - i. Do either of us become furious when losing at sports, cards, and so on?Consider, too, that someone who does not mind being bossed around may have a problem with self-respect.
  
- **13. Do we share similar religious beliefs?** Many young adults do not consider this issue sufficiently, but when they begin raising children, it can become a major source of disagreement. Many studies have shown that people who share a common spirituality stand a better chance of sustaining their marriage. These questions need to be answered:
  - j. Do we share similar religious beliefs?
  - k. What role does religious practice play in our relationship now?
  - l. How far will either of us compromise our beliefs, if at all?
  - m. Will religious differences affect our relationship?
  - n. Will differences in religion affect our families?

- ❑ **14. Do we have enough in common upon which to build intimacy?** Initially, divergent interests can be fascinating, but lasting relationships rely on common interests more than differences. Answering this question requires honesty because during the time they are considering marriage, two persons may try to be involved in each other's interests without truly wanting to be. Only later does the gap in their interests show up.
- ❑ **15. Can both of us articulate our feelings for each other?** Sometimes we need to hear, "I love you." It needs to be said. Some people find that expressing their feelings is very difficult. Before marriage, each partner ought to know her or his own need for hearing expressions of feelings and the ability of the other person to express them.
- ❑ **16. What are our expectations about money and our manner of dealing with financial issues?** One person may see no problem in buying on credit, but his or her partner may insist on the principle, if I cannot pay for it now, I do not buy it. Two persons may also have differences about what constitutes a dignified standard of living and how much money and possessions are necessary. Performing an inventory of each person's property or deciding which credit cards to use may not be romantic, but bitter arguments over such matters often can occur later in marriage. If the two persons can work through these practicalities, it indicates that they can handle a basic level of joint decision-making. If they cannot settle these basic issues, they probably will not successfully manage more complex dilemmas.
- ❑ **17. How dependable is each of us in our work?** People who cut corners, procrastinate, and are lazy in school are likely to be that way at work. They do not suddenly change old habits. As a spouse, a person with such qualities is not likely to carry her or his weight in the relationship.
- ❑ **18. Do we like each other's friends?** The types of friendships that a person develops say a great deal about him or her-what the person is like and what his or her values are. Both persons should take a good look at their partner's friends, and pay attention to their feelings of being comfortable or uncomfortable with them.
- ❑ **19. Do our dreams for creating a life together complement each other?** While considering marriage, two persons must share their dreams with each other so that they can see how their dreams coincide and conflict. Also, they need to be sure that any notions they have about their dream marriage coincide with the reality they are about to face. The differences in their dreams can be a starting point for negotiating aspects of their marriage. Life is full of compromises and adjustments that couples agree to work on because they believe that their relationship is worth the effort.

**Naturally**, couples considering marriage will not be able to answer all the questions in favorable ways because no relationship is perfect. However, if a fair number of the questions seem to have unfavorable responses, the persons may need to conclude that marriage is not the right decision for them within that relationship.

Besides screening out a potential wrong choice of a life partner, all the communication involved in talking over these questions is a solid foundation for the adventure of marriage that lies ahead for those who do decide to marry.

You both realized that in order for your marriage to last- there must be balance between your jobs/ and the time you spend with each other. You begin to realize that your wedding is a day, and marriage is for life. You work out your differences and now you are ready to work out the other details. With your new schedule for each other, you begin to budget your wedding, and living accommodations.

## Part 2: Wedding Questions- Details

1. Through communicating with each other, how did you budget and discuss your wedding, home? Elaborate.
2. Address and communicate the strategies that you used to balance your time, money, and personal differences.
3. Explain how your research correlates to your financial availability? Were you under budget/balanced/ or making adjustments?
4. How much did your partner help? Elaborate.
5. What role did your faith and moral guidance play into your decision making for the project? Analyze.
6. Define whether this was easier/ harder than you originally perceived? Explain.
7. Elaborate on the benefits that you can learn from this exercise.
8. Thoroughly explain the importance of communication within relationships.

## Part 3: Collaborative Journal: Work Together

In a detailed journal, write about your experience through this marriage activity. Was the work one sided, were you able to communicate about all of the scenarios without any hesitations? Below is the rubric to your journal.

1. How many people will you invite from both sides? Think about your wedding budget and cost, because your numbers may change due to the cost of your reception. Provide a number of attendants. If you want, provide the guests names.
2. Who will be in your wedding party? Compile a list of the best man, and groomsmen. Compile a list of the maid of honor, and bridesmaids.
3. What will be your wedding colors, and the how will you incorporate them into your wedding attire, and flowers, etc.
4. Do you want to be married in a church? If so, his or hers. If not, where will you get married?
  - i. Other things: Who will marry you? What about the music-explain? Elaborate the details of the wedding program? The readings? Decorations? Flowers? Who is your photographer- Where are your pictures being taken?
5. Where will you have your reception at? Find it, and check the cost in relation to your budget, and the number of attendants. Choose your menu, and find your cake. Explain any additional entity of the reception.. What about the center pieces, decorations? What about music. DJ/ or Band. Wedding Favors? **Remember: your wedding budget is a collection of funds between the both of you, the bride, and groom's parents.** Everything else, -out of your pocket.
6. Wedding Shower? Location? Where will you register at? What types of the things will you ask for your wedding shower?
7. Wedding Invitations. Style? Cost? Stamps? Again, number of people?
8. Rehearsal Dinner. Where? Food? Gifts for attendants/Parents?
9. Wedding Day: Transportation.
10. Honeymoon? Where do you want to go? How long? Cost? When will you leave?- That night, the next day, other- excursions?
11. House/ Apartment: How do you decide between, and how do you furnish it? Where do you live? What about transportation? Do you buy a car/lease? What about all the new bills? Details. Details.

## Part 4: Survey: Envisioning your Married Future

1. How many kids will you have? List a boy's name and a girl's name. (first and middle)
2. Describe the relationship that you would imagine with your children.
3. Describe the kinds of schools you will have your children attend for grade school and high school.
4. Regarding our current economic situation: Explain how financial matters will get taken care of.
  - a. Will you consult each other before large purchases?
  - b. Who will balance the checkbook? Who will prepare the bills each month?
  - c. How will you manage an economic hardship with a loss within a job?

