

Rules of Engagement

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SESSION 1

The Big Picture

SESSION 2

The Relationship

SESSION 3

The Approach

SESSION 4

The Covenant

SESSION 5

The Authority

SESSION 6

The Kingdom

SESSION 7

The Partnership

SESSION 8

The Alignment

SESSION 9

The Expectation

SESSION 10

The Consummation

SESSION 11

The Pitfall

SESSION 12

The Formula

The Formula

ACTIVITY SHEET



Woven throughout this Rules of Engagement marriage preparation program, from the very first session to the last, has been the narrative of Adam and Eve. Through this story we see God's original design for humanity, and we catch a glimpse of a greater purpose for marriage. In this session, all the lessons you have learnt, strategies you have embraced and skills you have developed, will be wrapped up together into one strategic formula for a Godly marriage. With this divine blueprint, together you can build a marriage that stands the test of time.



SESSION OBJECTIVES

This Rules of Engagement session is designed to help you:

- (a)** review and summarise the key lessons you've so far learnt in this program
- (b)** understand your God ordained roles and responsibilities
- (c)** put the principles, strategies and skills you've learnt throughout this program into a formula for success

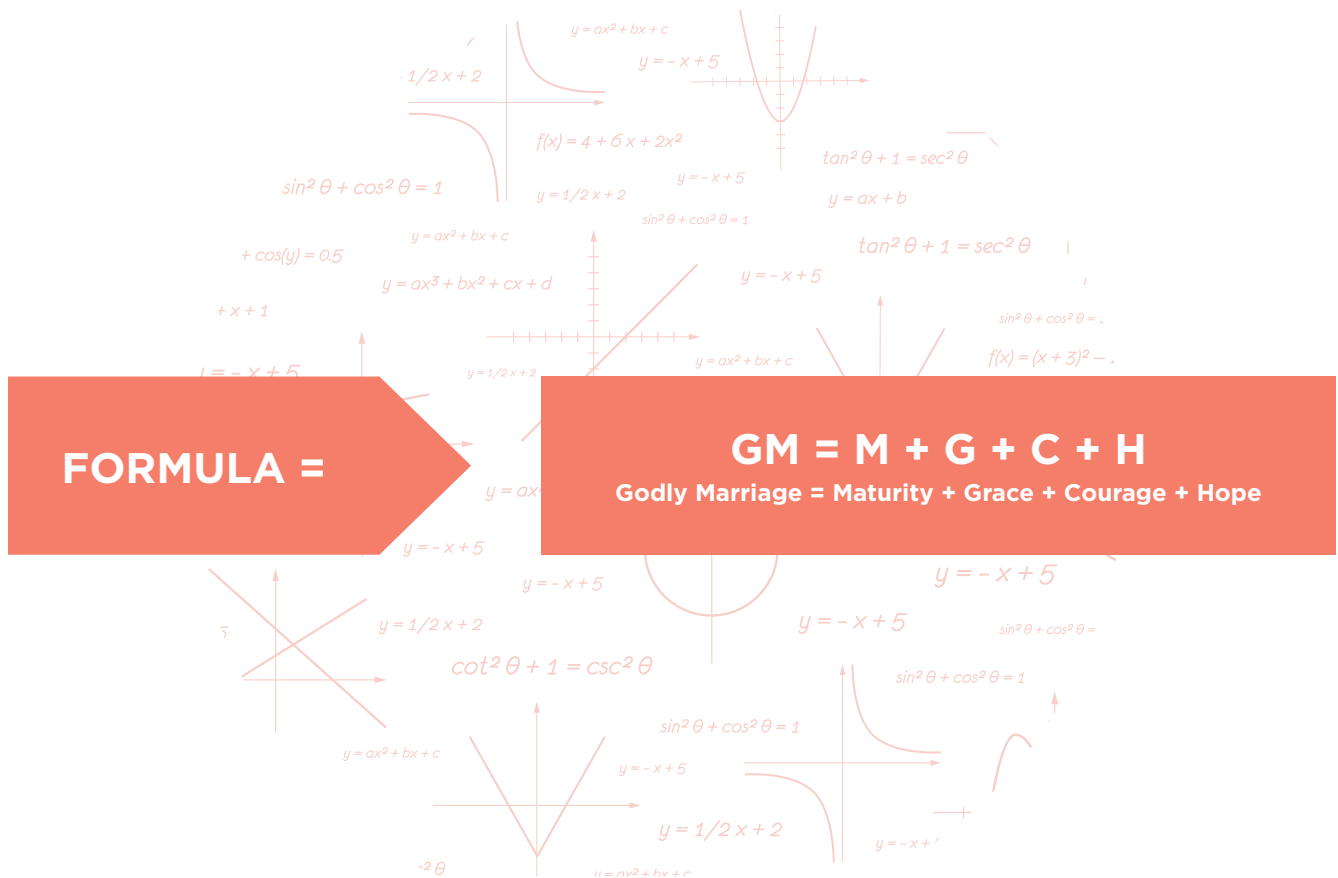
The journey so far.

The Rules of Engagement program was created to help you plan and prepare for your married life – from a Christian worldview. Review the session summaries below and identify what was the key learning or action step you have both taken away from each session.

SESSIONS	TOPICS COVERED	KEY LEARNING / ACTION STEP
Session 1 The Big Picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility of core values • Reconciling divergent beliefs • What attracts and excites 	
Session 2 The Relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basis of withering/flourishing • Worldview compatibility • The purpose of marriage 	
Session 3 The Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casual/contract/covenant modes • Spiritual and legal significance • Biblical perspective on marriage 	
Session 4 The Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment practically applied • Core characteristics of a covenant • Commitment trumps crisis 	
Session 5 The Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value and importance vs authority • Entrusted positions of responsibility • What constitutes relational maturity 	
Session 6 The Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing your own kingdom • Ruling versus leading • Christ-like servant leadership 	
Session 7 The Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marry AND become the right person • Keys for successful communication • Listening/speaking responsibilities 	
Session 8 The Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thought-feeling-action interplay • Conflict resolution • Effective problem solving 	
Session 9 The Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role and responsibility expectations • Realistic vs unrealistic expectations • Dealing with differences 	
Session 10 The Consummation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmasking sexual myths • Sex, pleasure and purpose • Becoming great lovers 	
Session 11 The Pitfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding relationship hazards • Overcoming common pitfalls • Becoming 'a safe place to fall' 	

Putting it all together.

Each Biblical principle and the scientifically tested strategy that you've learnt in the program is designed to help your marriage flourish and give you hope for the future. A simple way to remember the most important lessons is to put them into a mathematical formula:



ROLE		POSITION		RESPONSIBILITY
Empower	+	Honour	=	MATURITY
=		=		+
Love	+	Humility	=	GRACE
=		=		+
Confront	+	Sacrifice	=	COURAGE
=		=		+
Encourage	+	Generosity	=	HOPE
				=
				GODLINESS

Roles are mutually agreed upon. Positions are God ordained.

ROLE:

To empower is to love,
to love is to confront,
and to confront is to encourage.

POSITION:

To honour is to be humble,
to be humble is to sacrifice,
and to sacrifice is to be generous.

EMPOWER

Jesus empowered his disciples. In the same way, empower one another to fulfill your respective roles with excellence.

HONOUR

HUSBANDS: Honour your wife as Jesus honoured the church.
WIVES: Honour your husband as you would Jesus.

LOVE

Everything Jesus did, He did out of love. In the same way, don't fulfil your role out of obligation or duty, but do it with love.

HUMILITY

HUSBANDS: Submitting to one another and receiving your wife's input takes humility.
WIVES: Submitting yourself to your

CONFRONT

Jesus confronted every issue he faced. In the same way, don't ignore things that need attention. Confronting is coaching.

SACRIFICE

HUSBANDS: Laying down your life for your wife is to sacrifice your agenda.
WIVES: Setting aside your ambitions to serve your family requires great sacrifice.

ENCOURAGE

Jesus was the great encourager. In the same way, encourage one another with support and appreciation and gratitude.

GENEROSITY

HUSBANDS: Be generous with your loving words and actions.
WIVES: Be generous with your respectful words and actions.

Role + Position = RESPONSIBILITY

God's blueprint for happily ever after is activated when couples:

DEVELOP MATURITY

A commitment to EMPOWER one another from a place of HONOUR – **just as Jesus did for us**

EXTEND GRACE

A commitment to LOVE one another from a place of HUMILITY – **just as Jesus did for us**

BECOME COURAGEOUS

A commitment to CONFRONT issues from a place of SACRIFICE – **just as Jesus did for us**

CULTIVATE HOPE

A commitment to GENEROUSLY ENCOURAGE one another (words and actions) – **just as Jesus did for us**

MATURITY

+

GRACE

+


COURAGE

+

HOPE

=

GODLINESS



**God has
instituted an
all-important
“happily ever
after” rescue
plan right from
the start.**

**IN MARRIAGE, THERE
CAN BE NUMEROUS
CHALLENGES, BUT WITH A
GODLY FORMULA, THERE'S
ALSO GREAT REDEMPTION.**



DISCUSSION POINTS

Q: How could you cultivate even greater spiritual MATURITY in your relationship?

HINT: Empower + Honour = Maturity

Q: In what ways could you extend even more GRACE towards each other?

HINT: Love + Humility = Grace

Q: How can you each develop the COURAGE to lovingly address issues as they arise?

HINT: Confront + Sacrifice = Courage

Q: How can you practically cultivate HOPE for an amazing future together?

HINT: Encourage + Generosity = Hope