

STUDENT HANDOUT — Seminar 3, Session 1

Where Are You in Marriage?

INTRODUCTION

All marriages have a beginning. All courtships have a beginning. How many can still remember the beginning, the good times, bad times, and growing times, etc.?

The beginning for most of us married here today took place at a very romantic moment. Most marriages statistically go through several stages.

The purpose in this opening session is to cause us to focus on our marriage in much more detail than we normally do. This lesson can help us determine where we are and where we need to be and then how to get there.

I. The _____ Stage.

What is romance?

What are some of the romantic things you like from your companion?

Before marriage:

After marriage:

II. The _____ Stage.

This is the stage that usually comes right after the honeymoon.

This is what happens; you begin to feel the pain and the discomfort of the flip side of the _____ that you once found so appealing in the life of your partner.

The _____ stage clarifies what romance conceals.

Marriage is a _____ to each other for life.

III. The _____ Stage.

There are basically two kinds of _____:

1. The free floating kind.
2. The focused kind.

IV. The _____ Stage.

Now it is getting serious.

There are two types of _____.

1. Passive _____.
2. Active _____.

Three reasons why so many marriages end up in a heap of ashes.

1. Most couples enter marriage with severely underdeveloped _____.

2. Most couples tend to enter marriage with an improper understanding of the _____ of marriage.

3. Most couples tend to enter marriage with a naive belief that marriage will not require _____.

V. The _____ Stage.

This is where we want to continue in the rest of the seminar.

CONCLUSION

Here is your assignment: spend one meal a week together outside the home and discuss together where are you in your marriage?

Are you in The _____ Stage?

[] Discuss this honestly and then use what you learn in this marriage enrichment seminar to rebuild from where you are.