
Download Ebook GODLY PRE MARRIAGE COUNSELING MANUAL

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IPEPQQ - JAIDA BAKER

You aren't a licensed marriage and family therapist. You didn't do a doctoral dissertation on pastoral counseling. You're simply God's person caring for God's people in the local church. And the marriages in your church need help. Many pastors feel ill-equipped to handle the challenges that arise when a couple is going through marital difficulties. They feel lost and inadequate. What do you say? What counsel do you offer? Should I say anything or just listen? Do I schedule a follow-up appointment? Do I ask questions? What questions? If you are or have been in this situation before, this book offers you a practical guide to get started with the first sessions and then offers specific guidance on nine of the most common topics that come up in marriage counseling. Author and pastor Jonathan Holmes offers a solid, biblical theology

and methodology to help you navigate through the world of marriage counseling with the fundamental conviction that God's word is powerful enough to address the deepest of marital issues, and robust enough to handle whatever might come your way. In each chapter, you'll meet a new couple dealing with a different issue, much like the people in your church, office, and neighborhood. Through the book you'll also hear advice from several respected voices in the biblical counseling community. Whether you're a novice or already knowledgeable, Counsel for Couples provides theologically sound and biblically practical tools to help you as you help couples in need.

It can be tempting, for couples who are engaged, to focus on planning their wedding day and ignore preparations for the lifetime commitment that begins after the cake is cut. Now, with this re-

vised and updated edition of *Preparing for Marriage from FamilyLife*, couples can do both! Created by one of America's leading marriage and family ministries, this dynamic program is designed to help Christian couples lay the foundation for a strong, lasting and biblical marriage. *Preparing for Marriage* includes eight sessions of fun, romantic study that will help couples identify areas for growth in their relationship and start them off on the right foot before they walk down the aisle. Couples will learn how to discern God's will for their relationship, to handle finances and plans for the future, to clarify their roles and responsibilities, to develop a loving sexual relationship, to deal with family histories and past issues, and much more!

"I am a well-loved wife." Is this something your wife would say? Here's your guide to making those words a reality in your marriage. What do women want? This question has stumped the greatest male minds for centuries. Of course, if you're married, a much better question is, "What does your wife want?" As Darrin and Amie Patrick reveal in this profoundly practical and transformational book, God designed your wife to want—to need—to be loved. And that design is an invitation for you to love her deeply, intentionally and passionately. Practicing ten powerful actions—including listening, pursuing, and serving—will transform you into your wife's lifelong champion and have her nominating you for the Husband Hall of Fame. *The Dude's Guide to Marriage* is for guys who want to grow, who want clear steps to improving their marriage. It's for men who want a marriage that thrives rather than just survives. Grab this guide, and get ready to be a better husband by becoming a better man.

The letter of 1 Peter was written to persecuted Christians scat-

tered throughout the Roman Empire. It was meant to both encourage and instruct them on how to live as pilgrims in a hostile society. This message is still relevant today. Christ declared that in the end times believers would be hated by all nations because of him (Matthew 24:9). With the continuing culture shift, animosity and persecution towards Christians is increasing at an alarming rate. Over four hundred Christians are martyred every day, and more saints have died for the faith in the last century than all the previous combined. The words of 1 Peter are a message of hope, desperately needed to encourage and prepare the Church for what lies ahead. Let's journey through Peter's letter together with the aid of *The Bible Teacher's Guide*. Expository, theological, and candidly practical! I highly recommend the *Bible Teacher's Guide* for anyone seeking to better understand or teach God's Word. Dr. Young-Gil Kim, Founding President of Handong Global University This study could be used by pastors as an aid for sermon preparation, by small group leaders, or by any believer who wants to understand and apply God's Word personally. I can't imagine any student of Scripture not benefiting by this work. Steven J. Cole, Pastor, Flagstaff Christian Fellowship.

Marriages are in trouble today. That is clear. Effective methods of combating this trend are less evident. Counselors, pastors and social workers need more than mere theories or mere moralizing. They need a practical and comprehensive model for understanding couples and their problems. They need a thoroughly Christian perspective that is biblical, compassionate and human. Everett Worthington provides this in an integrated, biblically based theory of marriage and marriage therapy with analysis at three levels:

the individual, the couple and the family. The model he has constructed, with techniques drawn from the major psychological schools, is standard enough to guide counselors in actual interventions and powerful enough to produce change. A thoroughgoing overview of the assessment process includes practical, workable guidelines for: creating realistic, mutually-agreeable goals for counselor and clients; estimating the number of sessions needed to reach those goals; and planning the actual assessment, intervention and termination sessions. Next Worthington offers specific techniques for enhancing cooperative change, intimacy, communication, conflict resolution and forgiveness within the marriage. But keeping couples from slipping back into old patterns is one of the counselor's most difficult tasks. So Worthington concludes with suggestions for solidifying change and effectively concluding the counseling relationship. Here is a text that will be a standard for counselors, pastors and mental health professionals in the years to come.

Preparing Couples for Marriage by Les C. Wicker is a wedding scripture text and prayer book entailing premarriage counseling and marriage counseling topics along with the following topics: - marriage counseling - Christian marriage counseling - premarriage counseling - premarriage counseling online books - premarriage counseling - marriage counseling Christian - Christian counseling free marriage -wedding preparation checklist - wedding scripture - wedding scripture and prayer - wedding scripture texts - wedding scripture readings - wedding bible scripture

Getting to know that special someone naturally involves learning about family and friends, education and athletics, favorite pastimes, and your hopes and dreams. Ideally, you'll talk about life's

best moments and worst, the brightest places in your background and the darkest. But what about God? What is his role in your relationship? What do each of you believe about him, and how do you understand his dream for marriage-for your marriage? John Piper wants to help you faithfully walk the road to becoming husband and wife. Here you'll find his counsel on practical topics like engagement, wedding planning, finances, and sex. But most importantly, John shares his most vital word on marriage: a vision grander than many of us have ever dared to dream, about what God is doing in every Christian marriage.

Around fifty percent of marriages end in divorce and of those who stay married, a large number are unhappy. "Happily ever after" seems to be something only reserved for fairy tales. Even the disciples, when considering the difficulties of marriage, replied, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry" (Matt 19:10). Certainly, this is not what God had in mind when he created marriage (Gen 2:24). How are married couples supposed to experience the abundant life that God originally meant for them? In 1 Peter 3:1-7, Peter speaks to husbands and wives about the characteristics of a godly marriage and God's expectation for each in the union. Through this, we learn God's perfect plan for married couples. Let consider it together with the Bible Teacher's Guide: "Expositional, theological, and candidly practical! I highly recommend The Bible Teacher's Guide for anyone seeking to better understand or teach God's Word." -Dr. Young-Gil Kim, Founding President of Handong Global University "I can't imagine any student of Scripture not benefiting by this work." - Steven J. Cole, Pastor, Flagstaff Christian Fellowship, Author of the Riches from the Word series

This book will help counselors understand and deal with the typical problems that arise in a marriage. The approach is to offer not merely solutions, but biblical solutions. Chapter by chapter, each problem that is brought into focus is addressed by Scripture, and a solution arising from Scripture is developed. Unless one understands what a biblical marriage is supposed to be, it is difficult to solve marriage problems. For that reason, Dr. Adams spends the first few chapters developing a biblical model. Then he treats many of the specific kinds of problems that typically arise : life patterns, priorities, children, sex roles, in-laws, and so forth. - Back cover.

Christian counselors have long needed a manual they could give couples before marriage counseling so they would be guided to think through all the important issues of marriage. This manual abundantly fulfills that need.

Build a Love that Lasts At a time when more people are delaying marriage or writing it off altogether, those ready to walk the aisle will appreciate a frank and trusted resource to help them start marriage on the right foot. This practical guide will help you explore your relationship in depth and will provide new insight into your partner and how the two of you relate to one another establish your wants and needs as individuals and a couple before your marriage begins lay the groundwork for open and honest conversation for a stronger, healthier marriage reveal how life events and family background can influence decision making in finances, family, education, faith, and career engage you in activities that lead to thought-provoking discussion addressing your past experiences and current expectations Engaging and easy-to-use, Before You Say "I Do" is full of tried and true wisdom to help you plan for

your future and build a lasting relationship with the one you love. Jim Burns and Doug Fields wish you the very best for your wedding, but sadly, they won't be able to make it. What they are here for is your marriage. Jim and Doug have seen it all. They have worked with many couples and have studied extensively to uncover the essential elements for making marriages thrive. This book is their early wedding gift to you: a comprehensive, easy-to-navigate road map for beginning your union. Filled with premium fuel for the journey—including meaningful exercises, hard truths, and conversations starters—this book will nourish and guide your relationship for the long haul.

Christian Premarital Counseling for counselors. The question is, "How does one conduct premarital counseling?" Many have not received any training in this area. I faced this same problem. As a pastor, I had to figure out how to conduct premarital counseling. The benefits were plainly evident. Session by session, couple by couple, I finally figured out a plan. I have since then enhanced it a bit and made it available to others. Everything one needs is here including handouts and forms with many downloads to enhance use in our internet age. Purpose: To aid pastors, elders and other church leaders involved in premarital counseling to challenge and prepare engaged couples to have good and godly marriages.

The Pre-Marriage Counselling Handbook with Master Outlines was written specifically for the African context on how to build a successful marriage. Covering topics such as: Getting to know your spouse Communication skills and conflict resolution Marriage vows What the Bible says about sex In-law relationships Financial home management Preparing a godly home for children Building

a biblical foundation Designed as a seminar-in-a-book, A Pre-Marriage Counselling Handbook equips pastors and counselors to teach biblical premarriage classes and seminars. Sold as a two-volume set with handout masters allows teacher to copy class worksheets.

As you begin preparing for your big wedding day, this Marriage by GOD program is designed to assist you in preparing for a BIG MARRIAGE. Using the companion counselor's guide, a mature Christian couple can come beside you and mentor you through biblical principles and time-tested techniques for fulfilling God's great plan for marriage.

Many pastors, counselors, and theologians consider this book the most helpful on the issue of marriage and divorce.

It's an unfortunate reality that many men grow up in churches that suppress their God-given sexual urges. As a result, many Christian men, single and married, are frustrated with their love lives and their sex lives. The authors of this book claim that Christian men should be the greatest lovers in the world and then work to show men how to do it. They help men: -learn what the Bible says about a healthy sex life -discover how to relate to women as men instead of as boys -address psychological and spiritual issues that interfere with healthy sexuality -learn specific techniques that create a strong relationship, great foreplay, and passionate sex Solidly based in Scripture and informed by the experiences of the authors, all respected sex therapists, What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew about Sex dispels the myths that keep good Christian men from experiencing sex as God meant it to be. Perfect for any man, it is also a great book for counselors

and pastors who work with men.

Are You Planning a Wedding or Preparing for a Marriage? Like most engaged couples, you're researching venues, trying on dresses and picking out tuxedos or suits, tasting sample dishes, dreaming of honeymoon destinations, and doing everything to ensure your wedding day is the event of a lifetime. But as more seasoned couples will tell you, there's more to a marriage than a wedding. A lot more. How do you build a marriage that you've dreamed of? Dr. Greg Smalley, vice president of marriage at Focus on the Family, and his wife, Erin, along with 14 marriage experts, serve as your marriage guides as you prepare for life beyond the wedding day. From how to handle those everyday conflicts to how to better connect on a spiritual level, they'll show you how to get ready for a lifetime of commitment. When the flowers have faded and the last morsel of cake has been eaten, you'll stand with your new spouse, ready to face life together. Equip yourself for a marriage that lasts by learning: How to leave your parents (while still honoring them) and cleave to your spouse Why spiritual intimacy is key to a lasting relationship Why the language of love is communication (and how to build it) How to manage conflict in a healthy, God-honoring way Why sexual intimacy in your marriage will be the gift that keeps on giving Invest in a marriage that will last for decades. Are you ready?

Every couple wants and needs their marriage to begin on a strong foundation. An excellent pre-marriage counseling program with their chosen pastor helps to establish that foundation by introducing the couple to issues they may not have considered, helps them to clarify their individual expectations and concerns, resolve any conflicts, and prepare for a lifetime of love, happi-

ness, and mutual support with their chosen partner. A firm understanding of Christian faith in marriage grounds all of this.

Everett Worthington provides a Christian perspective and biblically based theory of marriage and marriage counseling. With an analysis of the individual, the couple and the family, Everett uses techniques drawn from several psychological schools of thought, combined with solid biblical principles to help guide counselors through the process of intervention, assessment and implementation of methods for change.

“Most people today view marriage as a means of looking for love, happiness, and fulfillment. Make no mistake about it, those things are important. Those things are critical. They are just not the most critical.” —Tony Evans *Marriage Matters* paints a picture of what it means to have a happy marriage—as God defines happiness. By examining the nature of the covenant and the purpose of marriage, Tony Evans gives steps to developing and maintaining a healthy relationship. In his approachable style, Dr. Evans explains the origins, order, and operation of marriage in its relation to Scripture. If the profound fruits of your marriage have turned into something mundane, or the validity of the covenant of marriage eludes you, then join Tony Evans in figuring out why *Marriage Matters*.

More than 25 percent of our marriages end in the tragedy of divorce, and over 72 percent of all teenage marriages terminate in the courtroom. A growing number of young people are so disillusioned with marriage that it is no longer even a desirable option for them. *Preparing for Your Marriage* prepares couples to enter into marriage with realistic expectations, developed roles, and

with defined responsibilities and goals.

Tying the Knot by Rob Green offers soon-to-be-married couples a practical vision of Christ-centered marriage that is realistic, hopeful, and actionable. With homework to help any counselor or couple put crucial lessons into practice, *Tying the Knot* is a highly relevant premarital counseling book. This eight-session study guides couples through issues like conflict, expectations, communication, finances, and intimacy, showing how each can be successfully resolved with Christ at the center of the marriage. Knowing the stresses and needs of a couple in their season of engagement, Green has helpfully designed the study to require a manageable (and healthy) 60 minutes of at-home work per session, with questions and exercises to build communication and intimacy at the end of each chapter. *Tying the Knot* also includes an appendix for mentors, making it easy for a married couple, lay leader, or counselor to lead an engaged couple through the book. Field-tested and recommended by multiple counselors in a thriving counseling practice, *Tying the Knot* has already guided many couples into a stronger and more joyful union. Let this eight-week premarital study reorient your life and marriage around Christ, so you both will experience all the blessings of marriage as God designed it.

In America, the average amount of money, time, and energy spent on a wedding are astronomical. While thousands of dollars are spent for the wedding day, little if any money, time, and energy are spent in preparation for the marriage itself. *To Have & To Hold: Preparing for a Godly Marriage* offers a different approach from "pre-marital counseling." It is more of a marriage education helping and equipping couples to build smart marriages and

healthy families. The days prior to a wedding can be busy and hectic. This Bible study book format maximizes the time couples have by focusing on important information in a simplified and condensed version. One of the biggest mistakes couples make is collecting great resources and then becoming overwhelmed by the amount of information gathered with little time to complete the reading. Oftentimes, those resources are put on the shelf for later, only to be pulled down when a crisis hits ... often too little, too late. This study may be used in a variety of ways including: For couples to do on their own as a pre-marriage study. For pastors or others to use in pre-marriage counseling with couples. For small groups where a leader has a group of young couples preparing to wed. For couples or small groups in the early years of marriage who did not receive pre-marriage preparation and counseling. Some of the weekly preparation is fun, creative, and light. It is a good escape from the wedding plans for a while helping couples find a balanced approach will help them gain insight during the fast-paced days. These weekly interactive prep activities will be focused on the specific topic for the week. They will encourage couples to look at scripture passages, do biblical words studies, listen to podcasts, go to a romantic place, or do some other activity to creatively challenge their thinking. These assignments are not a major time commitment, but they are vital as a couple works through issues. God's purposes for marriage are much higher and greater than our own. In Genesis 2:18, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone," He created Eve as an answer to that aloneness. Even though Adam had a perfect relationship with God, a perfect environment, and had all the possessions he wanted, there was still a void of intimacy. Blending two individu-

als into oneness was the Divine goal. They were made to become suitable helpers, counterparts who could balance and back one another in every way. God ordained marriage to be an earthly picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Jesus Christ's love for the Church, according to Ephesians 5, is sacrificial and unconditional. He laid down His life to present the church, His bride, whole, and complete. Likewise, when a husband and wife love each other as they do their own bodies, nurturing and caring for each other, they live out the beautiful picture of Christ's oneness with the Church. Features: Interactive questions and tools to guide discussion and make the study personal for couples Practical and simple to equip couples for marriage not only the wedding Tools and suggestions for pre-marital education and counsel Bible study book for couples (sold separately) is included in the Leader Guide for Pastors, church staff, small group leaders, or facilitators Benefits: Understand God's Biblical foundation and purpose for marriage in order to establish a foundation that provides stability and oneness in the marital relationship. Following God's principles leads to oneness and freedom in the roles and responsibilities of the husband and wife. Help couples understand and follow God's stewardship principles as they work to experience financial freedom. Challenge the thinking of couples regarding needs, intimacy, and oneness in marriage Encourage and challenge each partner to individually keep Christ as the first priority as well as to grow together in spiritual oneness as a couple Equip couples with tools to learn the necessary skills to effectively communicate through expressing oneself, listening, and managing conflict. Create healthy expectations for marriage and set a course action for the future. Join Byron and Carla

Weathersbee in this eight-session study *To Have & To Hold: Preparing for a Godly Marriage* as they explore and focus on the keys to a healthy marriage.

OVER ONE MILLION COPIES SOLD! With this updated edition of their award-winning book, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott help you launch lifelong love like never before. This is more than a book--it's an experience, especially when you use the his/her workbooks filled with more than 40 fun exercises. Get ready for deeper intimacy with the best friend you'll ever have. *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*, which has been translated into more than 15 languages, is the most widely used marriage prep tool in the world. Why? Because it will help you . . . Uncover the misbeliefs of marriage Learn to communicate with instant understanding Discover the secret to resolving conflict Master the skills of money management Get your sex life off to a great start A compelling video, featuring real-life couples, is available, and with this updated edition, Les and Leslie unveil the game-changing SYMBIS Assessment. Now you can discover how to leverage your personalities for a love that lasts a lifetime. Make your marriage everything it is meant to be. Save your marriage--before (and after) it starts.

Marriage is one of the most important decisions you will ever make in your life. This is a book aimed at helping the young person who is embarking upon the grand adventure of finding a life partner (although married couples will also find much of benefit in it). As with most things in life, there is a right way to go about this and a wrong way. But with the stakes so high, choosing the right person for the right reasons and establishing a solid and successful foundation for the relationship are crucial. Couples are en-

couraged to read this book together. It will take them through the process of preparing oneself for marriage, finding a life partner, working out whether he or she is the right one, enjoying an effective engagement period, and developing a sound and profound understanding of what marriage is all about, as a firm foundation for the lifelong adventure of marriage. Along the way, a number of issues are discussed, including: how to know that a decision is a good one; the beautiful meaning and symbolism of the ancient Orthodox rites of Betrothal and Marriage; difficult issues such as gender roles, abuse, intimacy, sexuality, contraception, and abortion; how couples can learn to understand one another and meet one another's needs; and the perilous danger and life-transforming beauty that is the mystery of marriage in the Orthodox Christian Faith. The approach taken is firmly based on both ancient Orthodox Christian principles and modern psychological principles, and is holistic and contemporary, seamlessly weaving together ancient wisdom and modern psychology into a single approach.

In any endeavor, dreams and goals not backed by concrete plans and preparations can result in failure. And marriage is no exception, claims H. Norman Wright. In fact, without solid planning and forethought by engaged couples, we will surely see a continuation of the startling divorce rate among Christians and non-Christians alike. On the other hand, thorough premarital counseling and preparation can result in lifelong marriages that are fulfilling and God honoring. That's where the church comes in. More and more churches are realizing that their responsibility lies not only in pronouncing men and women 'husband and wife,' but also in making sure the proper foundation is laid so that marriages have a better chance of standing strong under pressure. Since its intro-

duction in 1977 as Premarital Counseling, this book has been used by literally thousands of churches throughout the country as both a guide and reference tool. Now Dr. Wright has added new material to cover some perplexing issues that have come into prominence only recently. Among those special concerns are: Interracial marriages Second marriages Marriages of persons from dysfunctional families Writing for both pastors and other premarital counselors, H. Norman Wright sets you at ease about the counseling process, even if you've had only limited counseling experience. As the author of the popular *Before You Say I Do* and numerous other books on marriage, H. Norman Wright documents in *The Premarital Counseling Handbook* methods that have proved successful. These will help insure that the marriages performed in your church will resist the pressures that are destroying today's married couples.

Almost everyone knows someone who has been impacted by broken trust in marriage. Perhaps it is you, a family member, a friend, or someone you are trying to help and guide. *Marriage Trust Builders* is about strengthening and restoring the trust in marriage. It is written to help the couples that are struggling because of weak trust in their marriages. It is also written to help marriages that have experienced broken trust. It provides guidance for the spouse who is hurting, the one who caused the pain, and also for those who are walking alongside to help.

The family within and outside the church is under attack. Our culture seeks to revise and redesign what a family looks like. For those choosing to marry, their choice does not guarantee continued longevity and success. For both secular society and the

church, the divorce rate continues to remain in excess of fifty percent. While couples think that they love one another and believing that will be sufficient for a life-time, the reality is there is much they need to know in order to build a solid foundation for a lifelong marriage. This book present not only the biblical roles in marriage but also many of the core issues and situations that arise in day-to-day marital living. In these pages the couple is encouraged and helped to talk together about comfortable topics, uncomfortable topics, and topics they didn't know they should be discussing. Understanding love, communication, anger, conflict resolution, and money management are key subjects of discussion in these pages.

The purpose of this paper is threefold: to uphold the biblical view of marriage, propose a six-session curriculum of a marriage preparation class, with special attention to cultural problems faced by believers living in Chinese societies, and to provide help for pastors who wish to conduct such a class. The objective of this curriculum is to help Christian Chinese couples navigate the challenges of married life and build a strong Christian family for the glory of God. - Statement of purpose.

In this six-session small group Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately), *Sacred Marriage*, writer and speaker Gary Thomas invites you to see how God can use marriage as a discipline and a motivation to reflect more of the character of Jesus. Your marriage is much more than a union between you and your spouse. It is a spiritual discipline ideally suited to help you know God more fully and intimately. *Sacred Marriage* shifts the focus from marital enrichment to spiritual enrichment in ways that can help you love your mate more. Whether it is delightful or difficult, your marri-

age can become a doorway to a closer walk with God. Everything about your marriage—from the history you and your spouse create, to the love you share, to the forgiveness you both offer and seek by turn—is filled with the capacity to help you grow in Christ's character. Sessions include: God's Purpose for Marriage: More Than We Imagine The Refining Power of Marriage The God-Centered Spouse Sacred History Sexual Saints Marriage: The Love Laboratory Designed for use with the Sacred Marriage Video Study (sold separately).

Building Foundations for a Godly Marriage can be used as an eight-week small group study on marriage, a pre-marital or marital counseling curriculum, or simply to help one have a deeper understanding of marriage. "Expositional, theological, and candidly practical! I highly recommend The Bible Teacher's Guide for anyone seeking to better understand or teach God's Word." -Dr. Young-Gil Kim, Founding President of Handong Global University "Greg Brown's The Bible Teacher's Guide is thorough, scholarly enough to explain the text, clear, and practical. He treats difficult verses fairly and with helpful explanations (unlike many commentaries that skip the explanation right where you want it!). This study could be used by pastors as an aid for sermon preparation, by small group leaders, or by any believer who wants to understand and apply God's Word personally. I can't imagine any student of Scripture not benefiting by this work." -Steven J. Cole, Pastor, Flagstaff Christian Fellowship, Author of the Riches from the Word series

Why Are Foxes on the Cover of this Premarital Guide? Because every marriage has "foxes" lurking inside it! We all have idols and

selfish appetites—and, like the foxes in Solomon's vineyard, they can cause untold destruction and heartache. In fact, how seriously a couple takes their own foxes will influence whether their marriage blooms and glorifies God, or is a shallow and pale imitation of the real thing. In this workbook for both individuals and groups, biblical counselor John Henderson stimulates meaningful conversation and prayer between engaged couples. The book's interactive format provides couples with a foundation for understanding what marriage is really about, becoming a godly husband or wife, and understanding conflict and resolving it biblically. Sit down together, ask a married couple to come alongside you, and get ready to chase the foxes out of your relationship. Book jacket.

Pastors and counselors regularly minister to people whose marriages or families are in crisis. Tempers run high and feelings are brought low when a marriage is hurting or a family is in disarray. Pastors and counselors need practical, biblical help in order to connect their theological training to the reality of modern messy relationships. These how-to training manuals provide relevant, user-friendly equipping for pastors, counselors, lay leaders, educators, and students, enabling them to competently and compassionately relate God's Word to marriage and family life.

A guide for therapists and counselors, Pre-Marital Counseling addresses the common problems couples face when starting or considering marriage. This step-by-step guide teaches specific intervention strategies for common pre-marital problems, such as financial stress, blending families, and mental health issues. It also teaches readers helpful skills such as developing empathy, learning to compromise, and communicating successfully, all within a potentially diverse client population. Skurtu further helps

clinicians personalize their assessment and treatment plans for each couple so that they have realistic expectations. Written by a certified sex therapist, there is also a unique chapter on helpful sex education tips for maintaining desire in long-term relationships.