

Christian *Couples* Seminar



A Love Relationship
to Last a Lifetime



Hosting Information

A seminar about grace, love, oneness,
understanding, communication and fun within a
love relationship that lasts a lifetime.

Dear seminar coordinator,

To maintain a successful relationship, couples need special times together. Just as winning sport teams use their time-outs wisely to be refreshed and strengthened to go on to victory, so too all married couples need special times of renewal. This principle can be seen in Jesus' words, "Come away by yourselves... and rest awhile."

The Christian Couples Seminar is a two-day (Friday night & Saturday) marriage enrichment seminar which provides an opportunity for couples to take an important time-out, have a date away from the demands of daily living, and be biblically encouraged and strengthened in their marriage relationship. Dramatization and personal stories make the weekend interesting and fun to attend. Couples attend five sessions together and two separately.

We are so thankful you are considering hosting our Christian Couple's Seminar. Connie and I are excited about the possibility of partnering with you in serving your community by ministering to couples and enhancing marriages. Please read through this information carefully and complete the enclosed Host Application.

We are praying with you,

Greg & Connie

Greg & Connie Brezina

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Christian Couples' Seminar

Typical Seminar Schedule

The seminar usually takes place on a Friday night and Saturday format with 3 sessions on Friday night and 4 sessions on Saturday. However, we can flex with any schedule you desire.

FRIDAY:

6:45 - 7:00 p.m.	Session 1 - Remembering Our First Date
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Session 2 - Man, Woman, and Marriage
8:00 - 8:15 p.m.	15 Minute Break
8:15 - 9:30 p.m.	Session 3 - Design In Marriage

SATURDAY:

9:00 - 9:25 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Session 4 - Committing to Oneness
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	15 Minute Break
10:45 a.m. – Noon	Session 5 - Maintaining Marital Oneness
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	15 Minute Break
1:00 - 1:50 p.m.	Session 6 - Maximizing Sexual Oneness
1:50 - 2:00 p.m.	15 Minute Break
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Session 7 - Communicating Gracefully

What Others are Saying About the Seminar

HERE ARE SOME QUOTES FROM THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED PAST SEMINARS

“Wonderful, candid, and truthful. I loved all the integrated scripture. Greg and Connie are warm and genuine in their presentation.”

“This seminar was packed with scriptural guidance and practical insights. If you want more than a man or woman’s opinion about marriage, this is the seminar for you.”

“ I feel like our marriage was healthy and in good shape, but it was so nice to talk about communicating better and learning ways to keep it strong for years to come.”

“Greg and Connie are real people that make it easy to relate and identify. They have a fundamental love and awe for the Lord Jesus Christ. This translates into a passion to see individuals and marriages experience all that Christ Jesus has for them.”

“Divorce has been on the forefront of my mind for the past 6 months. It is my prayer that my husband and I will take all that was given this weekend, and allow God to save our marriage.”

“Even though I felt we had a good marriage, I learned there was much more that God had for me. I look forward to experiencing a more Godly relationship with my husband.”

“The only downside to this seminar is that attendance is not required for all couples prior to getting married. I wish I truly understood the gift of marriage prior to being married. I would not have taken so much for granted for so long.”

“This seminar should be a “must” for pre-marital counseling in churches. Greg and Connie are witty, thoughtful, and provide much needed Godly counsel during the sessions.”

“This seminar has given our marriage a boost to continue to love as Christ wants us to love.”

HERE ARE SOME QUOTES FROM THOSE WHO HAVE HOSTED A SEMINAR.

“This is the first couple seminar we have ever hosted, and Christian Families Today provided us with the game plan we needed to get up and running quickly with putting on a successful seminar and retreat.”

“The way to make our churches better is to make our families better. The way to make our families better is to make our marriages stronger. The Christian Couple’s Seminar was a wonderful tool to enhance the marriages in our church.”

Frequently Asked Questions

We encourage you to take time to read through the FAQs even if you've previously been to a Christian Couple's Seminar. A solid understanding of the CCS basics will help promote the seminar more effectively.

Q: Where do you hold these Marriage Conferences, and do they need to be held in a Church?

A: Our seminars are typically held in a "Host" Church with 150 person seating capacity or more. However, many groups choose to book a retreat center or resort, and we have also conducted the seminar in community centers and auditoriums.

Q: What are the typical hours of the Christian Couple's Seminar?

A: We generally hold the seminar on a Friday night (from 6:30pm till 9:30pm) and Saturday (from 9:00am till 3:00pm), but we are flexible to your format requests.

Q: Is the Christian Couple's Seminar for everyone?

A: If you are currently married or engaged to be married, this seminar is for you. The Christian Couple's Seminar starts with a foundation of God's overall design and plan for marriage and then moves into specific topics in marriage like communication and sexual intimacy.

Q: Will divorced people feel uncomfortable at the Christian Couple's Seminar?

A: No. We understand that divorce is a reality and that almost half of all married Americans have been through a divorce. We want to give divorced people the tools to make their current marriage relationship a strong, healthy, lasting one.

Q: Will attendees have to participate in group discussion?

A: There are no group discussion settings in which an individual would be asked to comment on the conference content or their relationship.

Q: Can engaged couples attend a Christian Couple's Seminar?

A: Yes! The seminar will give pre-married couples a clear understanding of how God views marriage and will equip them with knowledge and communication skills which, if implemented, will save them from much frustration and pain in their relationship.

Q: Are children allowed at the seminar?

A: Christian Families Today cares deeply for children. However, to keep the weekend free of distraction and as a courtesy to other participants, the presence of children (including nursing infants) at the marriage seminars is strongly discouraged. It is better if most children are cared for by others in their own homes, but providing childcare may encourage more people to attend the seminar.

Q: What is required to secure a Marriage Conference date?

A: Once you have confirmed your conference dates with our office, a signed contract and a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 confirms your date. The deposit will be applied towards the travel and materials cost of the seminar.

Q: Do you provide promotional materials to assist in our marketing efforts?

A: Yes. We provide downloadable promotional items, marketing materials, and other creative ideas which can be customized and printed out. We also provide a seminar promotional guide which will walk you through hosting a successful seminar step by step.

What does it take to host a seminar?

We would love to work with you to put on a Christian Couple's Seminar with your church or group. Here is an overview of what your responsibilities as a host would include.

FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT

The hosting organization is responsible for the facility arrangements including securing the location and providing the audio/video equipment. The Christian Couple's Seminar requires space that will comfortably accommodate the size of the group in attendance. Two rooms are needed to conduct the seminar. One larger room is needed to sit the entire group, and a smaller room is needed to sit just the women during their two split sessions. Rooms with movable chairs and tables are preferred to the sanctuary, unless that is the only place that will accommodate the attendees. The main room needs extra space for refreshment tables, two book tables, and a registration table. If baby-sitting is provided, then that space is also needed.

PROMOTION

The hosting organization is responsible for promoting the seminar.

REGISTRATION

The hosting organization is responsible for taking all pre-registrations. Christian Families Today requires a minimum of 50 couples to be registered for the Christian Couple's Seminar. On the day of the seminar, volunteers will be needed to handle registration.

REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH

The hosting organization is responsible for refreshments and lunch on Saturday. On Friday evening there will be a break during which refreshments will be served. On Saturday morning a continental breakfast should be provided before the first session. Saturday lunch should be provided so that attendees do not have to leave the premises. There are two breaks on Saturday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Drinks should be available during these times.

CHILDCARE

It is better if most children are cared for by others in their own homes, but providing childcare may encourage more people to attend the seminar. Churches may have a regular childcare team or would want to hire a team of young people (with proper adult supervision) to care for the children during the sessions.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SEMINAR SPEAKERS

The hosting organization is responsible for securing one non-smoking guest room or hotel room where cleanliness, privacy, security and amenities are available.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. HONORARIUM

The speaker's honorarium is usually provided by taking a love offering at the end of the seminar; however, the church can provide an honorarium if preferred. Some groups do a combination of both. If you prefer not to take up a love offering please discuss this preference with us.

2. MATERIALS FEE

A materials fee will be charged to cover the seminar workbooks. (\$8.50 per person)
Each participant will need his or her own seminar workbook. Some ask if one manual per couple would be sufficient in order to reduce costs; however, this is not possible as the men and women's notebooks are different to accommodate the two split sessions.

3. TRAVEL & LODGING

Travel expenses will also need to be reimbursed (including airfare or mileage, meals, local transportation, hotel, and parking at the airport). Greg & Connie will normally drive if the seminar location is less than 2-3 hours away. When the seminar location is farther or time is of the essence, Greg and Connie will usually fly.

Many churches and organizations cover the cost of a seminar by charging a per-person or per-couple host fee to attend the seminar then take a love offering for the speaker's honorarium. The seminar coordinator should estimate the expenses per person and set the host fee. The host fee should be collected when participants register. Any money left over from the host fees collected can be used to provide scholarships for needy participants or placed in the love offering. These items should be considered when setting the host fee:

- Materials Fee (\$8.50 per workbook per person)
- Speaker's Travel; Meals and Accommodations
- Facility costs
- Refreshments & Meals
- Advertising
- Baby-Sitting (if provided)

UNDERWRITING THE SEMINAR

In some cases, instead of charging the attendees, part or all of the cost for a seminar may be underwritten from the church or organization's budget. If you have difficulty raising the needed funding, we encourage you to consider asking other churches or ministries in your community to co-host the seminar. You will also find that attendance is much better when more than one congregation is backing the event. You could also seek outside funding sources, which may include denominational or charitable foundations, area businesses, or individual donors.

BOOKING FEE AND CANCELLATION POLICY

At the time of scheduling a non-refundable deposit of \$1000 is required. These monies will be applied to cover the expenses listed above. If for any reason the host group cancels a seminar, the deposit will not be refunded. However, any part of the deposit that has not been used to purchase airline tickets or other travel related expenses purchased in advance can be transferred to a future date.

SUNDAY SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

A number of congregations ask Greg to stay over and preach/teach for them on Sunday morning following the seminar. He is pleased to do so when his schedule allows. Please let our office know if you are interested in working this out.

Ready to Schedule a Seminar?

To schedule a Christian Couple's Seminar with your church or group, follow the simple steps below. Once a date is confirmed, we will send you a step by step seminar hosting guide. We look forward to working with you in putting on a successful seminar.

STEP 1: SET A DATE

1. Select several potential dates to host the seminar.
2. Check church and community calendars and identify potential scheduling conflicts.
3. Make sure the facility that you will be using is available for the dates.
4. E-mail or call Christian Families Today and match the dates with our calendar.

E-mail: cft@cftministry.org
Phone: 770-461-6053

5. Confirm seminar dates by sending in this form together with the \$1,000 deposit.

STEP 2: FILL OUT THIS SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Information Form	
Name of Host Church or Group: _____	Cell Phone # of Coordinator: _____
Address of Host Church or Group: _____ _____	Location Where Seminar will be Held: _____
Website of Hosting Church or Group: _____	Is this Seminar Open to Others Outside Your Church or Group? (Circle one) yes no
Seminar Coordinator or Contact Person: _____	Would you like us to list your seminar on our website calendar for promotional purposes? Yes no
E-mail Address of Coordinator: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> We have enclosed check # _____ in the amount of \$1,000 made payable to Christian Families Today*
Day Phone # of Coordinator: _____	*If for any reason the host group cancels a seminar, the deposit will not be refunded. However, any part of the deposit that has not been used to purchase airline tickets or other travel related expenses purchased in advance can be transferred to a future date.

STEP 3: MAIL THIS FORM TOGETHER WITH YOUR \$1,000 DEPOSIT TO:

Attn: Beau Brezina
Christian Families Today
PO Box 72643
Newnan, GA 30271