

FAMILYLIFE® presents

the art of 
marriage®

getting to the heart of God's design



leader's guide



What is The Art of Marriage Small-Group Series?

The Art of Marriage Small-Group Series is a six-session, video-driven series designed for married and engaged couples in all seasons of life. This series has been derived from The Art of Marriage video event.

Who will feel comfortable attending?

Anyone willing to invest time and effort in their marriage will benefit. As a discussion-oriented series, participants will be encouraged to be candid about their own challenges and questions. While the material is biblically based, this is not a Bible study per se; no prior understanding of biblical concepts is required.

What is required of the small-group leader?

The primary requirement is that the leader has a heart to invest in marriages. There are no lectures to plan or questions to prepare in

advance. In fact, we encourage the leader to simply participate along with everyone else in the group, to experience the material with fresh eyes and ears. The leader is also responsible to

- ✿ arrange for a location
- ✿ invite the participants
- ✿ orient the group to the material in the participant guide

The main task of the leader is to help establish a safe, accepting environment for all the participants. We encourage the leader to pray for each of the participants by name throughout the course of the series.

At the first meeting, before watching the video

- ✿ explain that the participant guide does not employ a fill-in-the-blank approach, so the participants needn't worry about tracking with what is on-screen in real time
- ✿ call attention to "The Big Brush Strokes" that summarize each session's main teaching points
- ✿ point out that any bullet lists or articles of interest are highlighted—with page numbers—on screen
- ✿ set expectations on the length of time for each session (see below)

What is the time commitment?

The six sessions are intended to be done in successive weekly gatherings. Other intervals will work, but the weekly approach will keep the material fresh in the participants' minds and promote better discussion.

Each session can be completed in 60 minutes. A session consists of an approximately 20–25 minute video segment, followed by a group discussion that is driven by the questions provided in the participant guide.

What equipment is required?

All that is needed is a DVD player and an appropriate TV/monitor/projection system suitable to the room and audience size.

Where should we host the small-group series?

The number of participants will determine the optimal setting. For an existing small group or class, we encourage you to continue to meet as you currently do. Because of the video requirement, a particular home or classroom may provide the best environment. Be creative—The Art of Marriage has been hosted at work locations, restaurants, hotels, community centers, retreat facilities, and many other venues.



How should we promote The Art of Marriage Small-Group Series?

If you are planning to use this within an existing group, promotion may not be required, but The Art of Marriage can be an excellent tool for expanding an existing group and inviting new people to participate. Use the promotion and communication channels that are available through your church (bulletin, announcements, newsletter, website, social networking, etc.), remembering that nothing is more effective than a personal invitation. The Art of Marriage website (TheArtofMarriage.com) provides a number of promotional aids and suggestions.

I have a question not answered here. What other help do you offer?

The Art of Marriage website (TheArtofMarriage.com) offers a great deal of helpful material to support leaders and hosts. Beyond that, feel free to e-mail our support team at ArtofMarriage@FamilyLife.com or call 1-800-FL-TODAY.








congratulations on your decision to lead a group through the art of marriage!

Through this series, couples will discover God's design for relationships in theory, technique and application.

Prepare to lead your group by

-  reading your leader's guide before the first session
-  reviewing Session 1 in the participant guide
-  praying for each participant

The investment you make through The Art of Marriage will empower couples—and their families—for years and even generations to come.

Visit TheArtofMarriage.com for more information.