

What to expect:

Simple Book: The small ReEngage class book is very unimimidating. Most chapters only average about 2 ½ pages... followed by an average of about 4 to 5 discussion questions. Bottom line, the course material is very concise....But the impact is very long-lasting!

Small Class: Couples will start the class with a short greeting/icebreaker time & then watch a short video (20-25 minutes on average). Your facilitators will then have everyone circle up their chairs and the group discussion of the last chapter's questions will begin. At the end of class, prayer requests, if any, will be shared among the group. Occasionally a testimony may be shared instead of a video.

Basic ReEngage Small Group Ground Rules ☺

- First, mentally **draw a "circle" around yourself**...& resolve that you are going to, by God's grace, **work on everything inside that circle**. That is, even if you don't believe it at the moment, stop & honestly consider the possibility that perhaps you yourself are the biggest problem in your marriage, not your spouse. (Matthew 7:3-5 – Get the log out of your own eye)
- Second, read the Lesson(s) for the week by yourself
- Third, answer the Lesson(s) questions by yourself (& don't forget the "action items"!).
- Fourth, schedule a **quiet, unrushed & uninterrupted** time to thoroughly go over your answers with your spouse. Take turns, be patient, listen well & don't interrupt each other.

These are indeed powerful principles & tools when you answer the questions honestly & do the action items in humility.

Please read & do the above short "homework" **early in the week** so that there will be ample time for God to give you insights into the principles being discussed with your spouse (& then later with your weekly small group). Please always bring your books to class.

Remember, your group leaders are "facilitators", not "teachers" or "counselors". They **will not** require or ask anyone to share anything at all that they are not comfortable sharing. **So please, to get the most out of all of this, answer all of the questions in your book thoroughly & honestly...And once in small group only share those things as you feel led to share...** And remember, anything you do share, should be about you, not about your spouse. We don't want to intimidate, shame or embarrass anyone. Transparency is of course encouraged, but godly discernment as to how much detail you share about certain subjects or situations is encouraged as well.

Small group leaders will seldom cover all of the questions from each lesson...And not even every couple will always share their answers to the questions that are actually discussed in class. This is a very relaxed environment.

The following characteristics will contribute to a kind, memorable & fruitful ReEngage small group experience for all couples:

1. Successful small groups have a balance of each person getting to contribute and share without any one person or couple dominating the group's time and attention. So, don't talk too little and don't talk too much.
2. Avoid the temptation to try to fix one another. Safe and successful small groups are characterized by support rather than advice-giving. Trying to "fix" someone else is usually a sign that we don't want to deal with our own stuff.
3. Even though you are at ReEngage as a couple, focus on your own individual thoughts and feelings as you share with the group. Please don't use your sharing as an opportunity to harm someone else.
4. Scripture calls us to refrain from gossip. Please operate under the direction of God's Word in the handling of information shared within the group. In order to provide a safe environment for your group, you must commit not to share information about one another outside the group except in the event of the threat of physical, emotional, or spiritual injury and then only under the guidance of a ReEngage leader.
5. In ReEngage, each person should be allowed to share without interruptions. However, like most other successful conversations, others are free to contribute with comments or observations only to the extent that it is helpful for the person or couple that is sharing.

"Humility is truly the foundation of oneness"