



### **The aim of the course:**

The aim of the Marriage Course is to enable married couples to build a healthy marriage that will last a lifetime.

Each evening there is a romantic dinner for two with candles and every effort to make it a special "night out", followed by a presentation of one of the eight topics, followed by private discussion at their own table.

In British Columbia, one out of two marriages end in divorce. Despite this sobering statistic, marriage remains the foundation of a stable society and the basis of family life. Children best learn what committed, loving relationships are all about through their experience of the commitment between their father and mother. Many people get married without ever having seen a model of how to build a marriage. They lack the tools that enable them to remain connected.

The Marriage Course is for any couple who wants to work together at their relationship. Their privacy as a couple is always respected. There is no large group discussion or any requirement to disclose anything personal to a third party. But they are expected to talk to each other.

### **Who is the course for?**

Some couples have been married less than two years and some for more than thirty years.

The course is beneficial for those whose marriage is already strong. It also helps couples going through difficulties. They are able to re-open communication in a guided and constructive way. Some couples who are separated or divorced have used the course as a way of trying to get back together. "Co-habiting" couples are welcome if they have been together for some time. Those who have been co-habiting for less than two years and are thinking of marriage are encouraged to seek out a Marriage Preparation course.

Although the course is based on Christian principles and led by Christians, it is very suitable for those with no Christian faith or church background. In Session 3, the presenters do speak of the difference that having God at the center makes to a marriage. Thanks is given before dinner. Couples are given the opportunity to pray for one another or to say encouraging words to one another.

Those without a Christian faith are often interested and attracted by what they hear. They are not required to do or say anything that would conflict with their own beliefs.

### **The cost**

The cost of the course is \$125.00 which covers 16 meals plus the materials for 8 Sessions. There is a Celebration Dinner which is a review for those who have just finished the course and is open to new couples. This gives new couples a no obligation opportunity to check it out before registering for the next course.

### **Location, time & registration**

The course is run in Olivet Hall, 613 Queens Avenue, New Westminster on Sunday evenings for eight consecutive weeks. Dinner is at 6:00 pm and the evening is over at 9:00 or earlier. Contact the Olivet office for starting date and registration at 604-522-0232 or [office@olivet.bc.ca](mailto:office@olivet.bc.ca)

