

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



HUSBAND: Hi Hon, I'm home! Where's the mail?

WIFE: Hi. I'm in the kitchen.

HUSBAND: How was your day?

WIFE: Not so good. The credit card bill came today.

HUSBAND: That's nice. Where are the kids?

WIFE: Oh, the kids? Child1 got an A on her math test, Child2 finished first in the swim meet, Child3 finished my last tube of lipstick on the bathroom wall and Child4 flushed another hot wheel down the toilet.

HUSBAND: That's nice. Have you seen the remote?

WIFE: How did your project go at work?

HUSBAND: Funding fell through. There may be some layoffs.

WIFE: That's nice dear. OK, your dinner's in the fridge. I'm late for Girl Scouts. I'll be back at 8, see you later.

HUSBAND: Bye. Where'd you say the remote is?

(Pause.)

Sound familiar? Wonder what happened to the newlywed couple you once were that talked endlessly about living happily ever after? Well that's why we're here today. To tell you how making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can bring the honeymoon back to your relationship.

SCRIPT #1 cont'd

How many of you have continued your education or training for your jobs? I have been to seminars and training classes in every job I have held since I started working at age XX, too many years ago. Yet the only thing that I had done prior to (Date attended YOUR ME Weekend) to be better in my marriage was meet with the minister prior to WIFE and I getting married XX years ago.

WIFE - We knew our marriage wasn't perfect but it was pretty close, we survived (insert your details, like: blending a family, and creating a whole new one). But the key words were "survived."

Once we went on a Marriage Encounter Weekend, we learned how to do more than just survive. We learned how to communicate and that skinny little path we walked down has become wide open road. Don't get me wrong, we are still going to have our share of bumps, but now even bumps are less of a struggle.

HUSBAND - As much as being less of a struggle those little bumps have turned into growing points and lessons. We have rediscovered the art of communicating our feelings, and understanding each others feelings. Instead of the conversation that we opened with, although we do still have them once in a while, we are now communicating on a deeper level. This is all thanks to our Marriage Encounter Weekend over XX year/s ago. Many people, including members of our family, friends and our church family have told us that they noticed a difference in us after our weekend. Now we would like some of you to experience the joy and romance of the weekend that we experienced.

WIFE – Now let me tell you what Marriage Encounter is not. It is not to solve troubled marriages, it may make them worse. It is not open sharing, conversations between your spouse and you are just that, between the two of you in the privacy of your own room. It is not a place to go to make friends or impress anyone with the exception of your spouse. Marriage Encounter is

SCRIPT #1 cont'd

designed for a man and a woman that are married.

The Weekend is for couples of all ages, all stages of their faith who sincerely want to grow and have their marriage be the best that it can possible be by finding new meaning and deeper joys through the presentations. It is a structured weekend that presents many ideas about marriage and effective communication in an interesting and sometimes funny manner.

HUSBAND – Marriage Encounter is a weekend away from home and other responsibilities. You and your spouse will spend the weekend in your own room and go to presentations Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. Friday begins at approximately 7:00 PM and Sundays sessions are over by about 4:00 PM, and this includes a church-type service, daily devotions and meals. Think about it, a weekend away from home, chores, work and nothing to do but concentrate on your spouse and your relationship. There is a \$50 application fee. The weekend includes hotel room, 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Marriage Encounter is a not for profit organization that is entirely self supporting. At the end of the weekend you will be given the opportunity to make a donation to help cover the expenses. You will be asked to give what you can but please do not miss the weekend because of finances. WIFE and I thank Pastor NAME for the opportunity to speak today and we thank you for listening. We will be available following the service for any questions you may have. There are weekends coming up in the very near future, (GIVE DATES AND LOCATIONS). There are openings in each weekend, and we do have registrations available for you with us today. God Bless and have a wonderful day.

SCRIPT #2

J wudcpf: Hi we are J wudcpf and Y kg NcuP co g. We have been worshipping here for ZZ years. ZZ years ago. we attended a United Methodist Marriage Gncounter Y eekend, and it has changed our lives.

Y kg: We are up here this morning to share this information and we are going to keep it short. Like a little commercial break for all of you. So here goes....

J wudcpf: Average Amount of time spent in college.....4 years.

Y kg: Results... Still looking for that dream JOB?

J wudcpf: Average amount of time spent learning how to use computer.....2 months.

Y kg: Results... I.T. department changed hands... New programs

J wudcpf: Average amount of time spent working on yard.....3 years.

Y kg: Results... With all this rain... Husband will be mowing the lawn this afternoon

J wudcpf: Average amount of time spent in job training.....2 years.

Y kg: Results... I heard that Pink slips for Lay-off's coming in Dec.

1st paycheck

"

J wudcpf: Amount of time spent working on marriage at a United Methodist Marriage encounter weekend...44 hours.....

Y kg: Results.....laughter, intimacy, happiness, and a timeless Love.

Husband:If you would like to experience the timeless gift of a United Methodist Marriage Encounter Weekend, we will be available after the Service (location), or you can pick up a brochure at the (location), or just give us a call.

SCRIPT #3

Top 5 Reasons to go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend

Prior to making an announcement from the pulpit at your church, make sure that you have a Marriage Encounter announcement in the bulletin and in the pre-service slideshow if your church does that. Here are examples of those:

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT:

GOD WAS AT YOUR WEDDING; HAVE YOU INVITED HIM TO YOUR MARRIAGE?

Renew your commitment to your marriage, to God and to your church at a Marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend. It's time for married couples to get away from jobs, kids, chores and phones — and focus on our relationship with each other and with God. Upcoming local Weekends will be <DATES> in <CITY> or <DATES> in <CITY>. For more details, pick up a brochure at the church information center, call <ME COUPLE'S NAME> at <COUPLE'S PHONE #>, or email <COUPLE'S EMAIL>.

SLIDE ANNOUNCEMENT:

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY

Register for a Marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend

<DATES>, <CITY>

or

<DATES>, <CITY>

Pick up a brochure today.

PULPIT TALK SCRIPT

You can start your presentation by showing the video from the Encounter.org site:

http://www.encounter.org/publicity/me_video.htm

HUSBAND: Hello. My name is <_____> and this is my wife, <_____>. What have you done for your relationship lately? (pause briefly) We're here today to talk to you about United Methodist Marriage Encounter.

WIFE: We have these brochures (hold up brochures) and they'll be available at the church information center, or you can get one from us. We'll be available in the fellowship hall to answer any questions after the service. But first, we wanted to give you the top 5 reasons to go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

(Wife holds up 5 fingers.)

HUSBAND: Reason #5: There are <X> dates to choose from in <YEAR>, right here in <STATE>, so you should be able to find a time that works for you. No excuses!

SCRIPT #3 cont'd

Top 5 Reasons to go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend

(Husband holds up 4 fingers.)

WIFE: Reason #4: It's 44 hours away from kids, in-laws, work, cell phones ... and a time to concentrate on your marriage.

(Wife holds up 3 fingers.)

HUSBAND: Reason #3: All those things that seemed so cute when you were dating are getting a little irritating now. Like how your spouse's friendly, outgoing nature attracted you to them, but now it can be embarrassing. For example, she thinks it's fun to get up in front of the ENTIRE church and make announcements. (feel free to rewrite this example to fit better with your relationship, but make sure it's something that will come across as funny as opposed to sounding like you're complaining about your spouse.)

(Husband holds up 2 fingers.)

WIFE: Reason #2: And this is a biggie. You don't have to share your feelings in group therapy. This is a private weekend, between a husband and wife only. No required open sharing.

(Wife holds up 1 finger.)

HUSBAND: And ... (if your church has a praise band, ask the drummer to do a drum roll here) **The number ONE reason to go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend:**

Because you love your spouse and you deserve this!

WIFE: OK, we'll be in the fellowship hall to answer questions, or you can call or email us, our contact information is in the bulletin. There is a weekend coming up at the end of THIS month in <CITY>. And the next <CITY> weekend is in <MONTH>. The dates are on the back of this brochure and there are <X> more weekends beyond that. So please find one that works for you. Thank you for time today.

HUSBAND & WIFE: Have a great day!

SCRIPT #4

Hi. We're ____ (insert your names here) _____ and we went on a Marriage Encounter Weekend ____ (insert month and year here) _____.

SPOUSE WHOSE IDEA IT WAS TO GO: I heard about Marriage Encounter _____ (insert how you heard here, what you thought, how you approached your spouse with the idea, etc.) _____.

OTHER SPOUSE: I _____ (tell how you heard about ME/what you thought/felt when your spouse said they wanted to go) _____
_____.

BOTH: _____ (take turns telling what you thought of the experience and what it did for you as an individual and as couple, if you're comfortable, consider sharing what you were afraid/nervous of/about and how that turned out to be nothing to worry about)
_____.

On a United Methodist Marriage Encounter Weekend , you will learn new communication tools to help strengthen your relationship. But there is no public sharing required. You and your spouse will practice your new communication tools in the privacy of your hotel room in between presentations.

There is a brochure with more details _____
(give location).

SCRIPT #4 cont'd

We hope you'll consider attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

_____ (insert personal reasons/recommendations or what the Weekend did for you here) _____.

Upcoming Weekends include:

(list upcoming weekends)