

## 2013 Remarriage Preparation Program Outline

### Session One: Remarriages Wonderful and Different – 2hr.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Outline Marriage Preparation Program
3. Discuss confidentiality, group rules and expectations
4. Discussion on “Remarriages: Wonderful and Difficult”, *To Trust Again Leader Guide*, pp. 19.
5. Tell your story. Discussion.
6. Couple tells their story.
7. Written Exercise: *To Trust Again*, “If we don’t know where we come from” pp. 9 & 11
8. Group Communication Exercise: “Remarriage Play Solomon” # 1.
9. Take FACET or Apply for FOCCUS\*\* (FOCCUS Application may be filled out at first session or filled out over the phone and submitted before Session One.)
10. Discuss upcoming sessions and dates
11. Give out Homework (below)
12. Closing Prayer
13. Send FACET answer sheets with Cover Sheet to Archdiocese for processing.

#### Homework:

- Take the FOCCUS, *when log-in codes arrive—OR—Discuss FACET Narrative Pages*
- *To Trust Again*, “Discovering Each Other” pp. 5-6 & pp.7-8
- *Catholic Remarriage*, Read Chapter 1 and 2.
- Listen to *When the Cake is Gone: How to Get Married and Stay Engaged*, Track One

### Session 2: Communicating Effectively – 2 hrs

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review homework. Discuss.
3. Discuss FOCCUS or FACET results. Ask about their discussion of the FACET narrative pages.
4. Discussion on “Communicating Effectively.” *TTA Leader Guide*, p. 20
5. Group Communication Exercise: “Remarriage Play Solomon” # 3
6. Written Exercise: *To Trust Again*, “Fighting Fair” pp.13 & 15
7. Give out Homework (below).
8. Closing Prayer

#### Homework:

- *To Trust Again*, “How do you see me?” pp 10 & 12

- *Catholic Remarriage*: Read Chapters 3 and do worksheet.

Listen to *When the Cake is Gone*, Track 2

### Session 3: Becoming Intimate & Sex and Sexuality

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review Homework
3. Discussion: "Becoming Intimate", *To Trust Again Leader Guide*, p. 22
4. Written Exercise: *To Trust Again*, "Sex and Sexuality" p 17 & 19
5. Discussion: Family Planning - Show Natural Family Planning written resources and/or video.
6. Theology of the Body. Give a short presentation based on reading material attached to this outline.
7. Give out Homework (below)
8. Closing Prayer

Homework:

- *To Trust Again*, "Intimacy Checkup" p. 26 & 28
- *Catholic Remarriage*, Read Chapter 4, and do worksheets.
- Listen to *When the Cake is Gone*, Track 3

### Session 4: Decision Making & Problem Solving – 2hrs

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review Homework. Discuss.
3. Discussion on "Potential Problems", p. 21
  - the art of problem-solving
  - financial matters and role adjustment
  - in-laws/out-laws
4. Group Communication Exercise: "Play Solomon" # 4 & 5
5. Give out homework,,
6. Closing Prayer

Homework:

- *To Trust Again*, "Know the Territory" pp. 21 & 23
- *To Trust Again*, "In Laws or Out Laws" p 25 & 27
- *Catholic Remarriage*, Read Chapter 5 and do worksheet
- Listen to *When the Cake is Gone*, Track 4

## Session 5: Family Blending

1. Opening Prayer
2. Discuss homework.
3. Discussion: "Family Blending", *To Trust Again Leader Guide*, p. 24
4. Written Exercise: *To Trust Again*, "(Step) Parenting: A Special Gift", p. 33/35
5. Group Communication Exercise: "Play Solomon" # 2
6. Explain the *FOCCUS of the Future* goal setting tool, if using.
7. Give out homework.
8. Closing Prayer

### Homework:

- Select One:
  - *To Trust Again*, "Now is the Time" p. 29 & 31 or
  - *To Trust Again*, "Are we ready" p. 30 & 32 or
  - *To Trust Again*, " Guidelines for Stepfamilies" p. 34 & 36
- *Catholic Remarriage*, Chapter 6, and do worksheets

## Session 6: Trusting In God – 2hrs Proposed Sequence Activities

1. Opening Prayer
2. Discuss Homework
3. Discussion: "Trusting God", *To Trust Again Leader Guide*, 25
  - Catholic understanding of marriage
  - Marital Spirituality
  - Church practice/Interfaith issues
  - Wedding liturgy
4. Help couple develop their *FOCCUS of the Future* Plan, if using.
5. Pass out Evaluations & Certificates.
6. Give out homework.
7. Closing Prayer Service, *To Trust Again*, p. 47.

### Homework:

- *To Trust Again*, "Sharing the Faith Vision" p. 37 & 39
- *Catholic Remarriage*, Read Chapters 7 and 8, and do worksheets

# Play Solomon -- *Remarriage Situations*

(Thanks to Jean Finan, Jerry & Kathy Church, Beth & John Gregrich, John & Dee Papania, and Steve & Kathy Beard.)

**1**Jennifer and Bob were recently married. Their family is a blended family and consists of three children. Jennifer's has two daughters from a previous marriage, Amy (age 7) and Sally (age 10). Bob has one son from his previous marriage, Christopher (age 11).

Jennifer and Bob have decided that as a new couple they need "their" time together to talk, go out, or just relax. They have told the kids to give them "parent's time" and mom and dad will make time for each child. Jennifer and Bob's basic rule is, that if the kids see them relaxing or talking, that the kids should say excuse me, to see if it a good time to interrupt them.

Well lately, when Jennifer and Bob want to be alone, their youngest child, Amy, keeps hanging around and constantly interrupts them or looks for Jennifer wherever she goes in the house. Amy often cries when Jennifer goes out. Amy has been told that, "This is mom and dad's time, and in a little while, mommy will be spending time with Amy."

- How can Jennifer and Bob get their own time? Couple's time is important, but Amy seems to need more time? What is troubling Amy?

**2**Amanda has two children, Tim (age 11) and Susan (age 7) from a previous marriage. John has no children, and has never been married. Amanda and John are recently married, and have agreed to let either parent discipline their two children. John the stepparent is home alone with the children. Tim acts up and pick on Susan. John asks Tim to settle down and leave Susan alone. Tim doesn't listen and continues to tease Susan. John gets upset and punishes Tim by sending him to his room. A while later, Amanda, the children's biological mother, comes home. John tells her what went on. Amanda goes to Tim's room and he tells his side of the story. Amanda bursts out of Tim's room and starts arguing with her husband, John, accusing John of over reacting and punishing her son.

- Should Amanda have acted that way? Is it alright to allow the stepparent to discipline children that aren't his or hers? What should they do to prevent further arguing?

**3**Hal has been married before. He has two children from a first marriage. Karen has never been married, but she and Hal have been dating for over 7 years. They finally decided to get married. Karen knows little about the Hal's previous marriage but has spent time with Hal's children. Karen would like a family of her own and wants to be a mother to Hal's children. Hal has to work three jobs to support himself and his previous wife and children, and that leaves him little time to spend with Karen. Hal likes to spend time with his children from his first marriage. Karen and Hal are in love and are sure they can make their marriage work.

- How can Hal and Karen budget their time, and money to support their marriage? What understandings do you think Karen and Hal should have before they are married? What should Karen's role be with the children of the previous marriage?

**4** Tom and Mary are newly married. They have three children. Tom is divorced and has one daughter, while Mary has a son and daughter by a previous marriage. All three children are living with them on a regular basis.

Mary's divorce agreement states that she shares joint custody with her ex-husband. Mary takes her kids to their biological dad's house every other weekend, every holiday except Christmas, and 5 weeks in the summer. Mary and Tom want to build their blended family by sharing holidays, vacations, and making their own family traditions. Tom is very upset with Mary's divorce agreement and thinks it is unfair for their new family.

- How could Mary and Tom promote family bonding in this new family? What about Mary's divorce agreement?

**5** Sally and Fred are newly married. Fred is a widower with two children from a previous marriage. Sally is divorced with two children from a previous marriage. Fred has maintained a good relationship with the family of his deceased wife. Fred, on occasion, attends holiday parties or takes his children to visit their grandparents. Fred's children are always comparing Sally to their mom, criticizing Sally for not doing things the same way as in their previous family did.

Fred is torn between this marriage with Sally and his children's wishes to keep memories of their family alive. Sally is getting upset with Fred.

- How can they promote harmony in their new family? Whose traditions should they follow? What are the issues here?

**6** Mike and Sue are recently married. Sue is divorced with two children (age 4 and age 7). Mike has never been married. Mike married Sue because he loves her and wants to help her better provide for the children. Mike and Sue must both work to pay all their bills. Daycare for the children has always been expensive, since no relatives live in town. Sue's divorce agreement states that her and her ex-husband will have joint custody of their children from the previous marriage. Mike has a better job opportunity in another town 50 miles away. Mike starts commuting 1 ½ hrs per day one way to his new job, while the family remains in their current town. Sue is expected to travel sometimes with her job.

After 6 months, Mike asks Sue if they can move to a town closer to his work. Sue asks her ex-husband to reconsider their custodial agreement for the children to permit her to move out of town to be closer to her new husband's job. Sue's ex-husband refuses to change the joint custody agreement. Mike and Sue want to build their new life together, have enough money, and raise a family.

- What are the issues here?