a day
together
organiser’s guide
including countdown schedule and promotional ideas
What's in this organiser’s guide

All the information you need to host a day together seminar for couples is in this guide.

The two key ingredients missing are: you and us!

The FamilyLife team looks forward to working with you. As we work together we can play a part in building and strengthening marriages and relationships in your community.

Mark & Christine Daniel
Directors, FamilyLife

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FamilyLife is a ministry of Agapé
Agapé is a registered charity No 258421 and is part of Campus Crusade for Christ for Christ International.
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General information

Thank you for your interest in holding ‘a day together’ seminar in your community. Ideal as a stand-alone event, as a refresher for another couples’ course or an outreach into the community, a day together is an exciting new tool that helps couples of all faiths and none. Couples put aside a day to draw closer to one another and look at key issues, including communication, conflict and intimacy.

Seasoned with relevant and inspiring Christian testimony, a day together helps couples to grow closer together and ultimately, also to God.

There are stories, testimonials and videos from events on our website www.familylife.uk.com and FamilyLife’s facebook page.

Aims of the day

The aim of the day is to help couples to grow closer in their relationship – to have a stronger, happier and healthier relationship. We have put together five great sessions to equip couples for some of the most important aspects of all relationships.

1. Communicating together: developing a deeper understanding of each other.
2. Growing together: identifying what tends to pull us apart and what helps us to grow closer.
4. Loving together: understanding each other’s needs and love languages.
5. Moving on together: discovering fresh ways to continue growing as a couple.

FamilyLife has trained a team of couples in skilfully sharing their own, often gritty stories, to inspire attendees to tend their own relationships. There is space for couples to talk privately and there is no group work or group discussion.

The content of the day is based on research and our experience of what works. We use the Bible as a key reference point because we believe that the timeless principles are practical and full of wisdom. We aim to promote marriage as a loving, faithful and committed union between a man and a woman and to make the day very helpful and fun too.

A recent survey rated the event as five star, amongst all age and faith groups.

“We had an excellent day. It meant a great deal that all presenters were not ‘perfect’ or super middle class role models.”

The target audience

The day together seminar is suitable for all kinds of couples whether living together, engaged, married or not. The day is designed for church goers, those of other faiths AND those who wouldn’t normally come to church as long as they are open to relationship values based on Biblical principles.

The day is a great investment of time for couples whether their relationship is solid or they are struggling.

“It’s great - all relationships can be improved, even the best ones!”

Typical comment from a delegate at a FamilyLife event.
Planning & promotion

This organiser’s guide sets out to help you plan and organise a day together event. It's a very good idea to read the whole guide before you start planning anything to get a full picture of what it entails (and we’ve tried to make this guide simple but comprehensive). You may also find it helpful to see a day together as something that has three phases:

**PHASE 1. Planning and promotion**

Thinking ahead and good planning will help make the day run smoothly. Good promotion will help people see how worthwhile it is so they will come themselves AND help them to be confident to invite /bring along their friends, family and neighbours. This guide also contains a countdown checklist leading up to the day itself with key activities to complete for each time period. See pages 10-14

**PHASE 2. The day itself.**

Your role is to provide an appropriate welcoming venue for couples which should include some refreshments but may or may not include lunch. You will have a hosting team who will work with the FamilyLife team who are delivering the seminar. See page 15

**PHASE 3. Follow-up.**

The event is a great launch pad for couples to continue growing in their relationship with each other AND with God. It’s important to think about what you will do to follow on after the day so that couples can be given ideas on the day of what they can do next. See pages 16-17

All three phases are equally important!

**FamilyLife will provide:**

- This guide which will help you successfully plan and organise your event.
- Our team to support you. Email: info@familylife.uk.com or telephone: 01753 669473
- Website support and resources are available to download FREE from our website www.familylife.uk.com and CLICK ON help for organisers.
- Marketing pack consisting of:
  - 300 A3 Colour two fold invitation brochures.
  - 6 x A4 colour posters.
  - Power Point Slide.
  - Promotional DVD.
  - Marketing of your event via the FamilyLife website and national network.
  - Soft copy details about the event and some promotional images for you to put on your local website.
- Registration spread sheet (download FREE from www.familylife.uk.com)
- Confirmation letter for you to tailor (download FREE from www.familylife.uk.com)
- A team of our highly trained seminar facilitators.
- Multimedia presentations.
- A quality seminar workbook for each delegate.
- Feedback form for completion at the end of the day.
- Post event FamilyLife will send you:
  - Summary of feedback from the day
  - List of delegates to follow up
  - List of delegates who wish to join Together groups (a recommended follow-up after the event. See pages 16-17)
Things you need to plan and provide

1. **VENUE** - with capacity for:
   
   - **The setting up of a relaxed, welcoming environment.** If possible it’s a good idea to set out chairs facing the front in pairs with a small space between each pair. A semi-circle alignment for each row is also more welcoming and informal than straight lines of chairs (if space allows). Decorating the venue is also a good idea and can be done imaginatively on any kind of budget (Simple greenery, flowers, balloons, candles etc). Go to [www.familylife.uk.com](http://www.familylife.uk.com) and CLICK ON help for organisers for ideas and pictures.
   
   - **Multimedia presentations.** A screen and projector are required (FL can provide by request and given sufficient notice – talk to us at the booking stage).
   
   - **Hospitality/refreshments/lunch.**

   - **‘Break out’ areas for couples.** Each couple will need a private space with two chairs and a small table (table optional) where they can go between sessions to discuss what they have heard. These ‘break out’ areas should be numbered and allocated on registration. Couples will need a reasonable level of privacy so ensure you spread your breakout areas. It’s also helpful to play soft background music in rooms with more than one couple. We suggest gentle classical, jazz or other music without vocals. Guitar or piano music is ideal. Your hosting team will need to organise this. Speak to the FL team if unsure.
   
   - **Bookstall.** FamilyLife will display recommended books which can be purchased or ordered and so a table will be needed (sales will be managed by the FamilyLife team and funds will go to FamilyLife).

2. **REGISTRATION:** We ask that **you register the delegates** (on the spreadsheet provided) and take booking fees for all delegates. Please **confirm each booking** by sending the confirmation letter (sample provided for you to tailor) to the delegates either in writing or by e-mail. Also include specific details about hospitality/lunch, directions to the venue and possible local accommodation options as some delegates may travel from a distance. We recommend that couples book a ‘date’ for the night of the event (which is suggested in the confirmation letter) so you may wish to recommend a few local places to eat.

3. **YOUR TEAM:** One person can do several jobs but **it will be helpful to spread the load!** We suggest you appoint:
   
   - **A seminar organiser** – to head up the event. Someone who is good at organising and delegating with attention to detail. They will work through this guide and keep everyone on track. This person will probably also work in close contact with the FamilyLife team.
   
   - **Money Manager** – someone who can draw up a budget and keep track of spending (page 6).
   
   - **Marketing/Promotion organiser** – someone enthusiastic to promote the event (see Promotion Plan on page 7)

   - **Registrar** – registers bookings on spreadsheet provided by FamilyLife and sends confirmation letters/e-mails (See REGISTRATION above).
   
   - **Hospitality organiser** – refreshments, lunch (if being provided) and organises teams to serve and clear up on the day.
   
   - **Technical Support** – liaise with FamilyLife, meet team before the event and be present on the day to help with multimedia.
   
   - **Prayer Support** - nominate a prayer champion for the event who will raise up a number of people to pray.
   
   - **Venue organiser** – sets up registration area, chairs for delegates, break-out areas for couples, hospitality areas and decorates (if appropriate).
   
   - **Follow-up organiser** – someone who will be responsible for phase 3 (see pages 16-17).
Financial plan

You will want to draw up a budget and keep track of spending against budget. Your budget will decide the price charged to delegates and will be affected by:

1. The need to cover your own fixed costs (the FamilyLife charge as per the Agreement, venue costs, heating, lighting etc)

2. Decisions about variable costs. Will you provide basic hospitality (tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits) with delegates bringing packed lunches? Will you provide a packed lunch (sandwich, crisps, chocolate bar and fruit) or a simple cooked meal (soup/bread/cheese/fruit or a pasta bake & salad)? Are any additional funds required for promotion? Will you allocate funds to decorate the venue? Will you purchase thank you cards/gifts for your team?

3. You are working to a minimum of 20 attending couples (40 people)\(^1\) to ensure that the event is viable.

4. What you think people in your community can afford. You could have a bursary fund to support those in need.

Schedule

A sample outline of the day with suggested timings is set out below (FL will supply final schedule on the day).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:45</td>
<td>00:45</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>FL Team arrives, prayer and co-ordinate teams &amp; briefing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>00:45</td>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Arrival of delegates, registration and optional light refreshments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>00:15</td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Welcome and Intro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>00:05</td>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>ENRICH questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>00:35</td>
<td>11:10</td>
<td>Session 1: Communicating Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10</td>
<td>00:30</td>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Couple time 1 in seats with Coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>00:30</td>
<td>12:10</td>
<td>Session 2: Growing Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10</td>
<td>00:30</td>
<td>12:40</td>
<td>Couple time 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:40</td>
<td>00:50</td>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>00:05</td>
<td>13:35</td>
<td>Feedback 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:35</td>
<td>00:40</td>
<td>14:15</td>
<td>Session 3: Resolving Conflict Together</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15</td>
<td>00:30</td>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>Couple time 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>00:35</td>
<td>15:20</td>
<td>Session 4: Loving Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:20</td>
<td>00:30</td>
<td>15:50</td>
<td>Couple Time 4 with Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:50</td>
<td>00:10</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Love Languages Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>00:25</td>
<td>16:25</td>
<td>Session 5: Moving on Together</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:25</td>
<td>00:10</td>
<td>16:35</td>
<td>Final couple time in seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:35</td>
<td>00:05</td>
<td>16:40</td>
<td>ENRICH questionnaire part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:40</td>
<td>00:10</td>
<td>16:50</td>
<td>Feedback 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:50</td>
<td>00:05</td>
<td>16:55</td>
<td>Final bookstall &amp; depart, (video vox pops)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) This number is subject to agreement with FamilyLife.
Promotion plan

Be assured that those who come will benefit. You will need a key person with passion, enthusiasm, and time to promote the event widely. Experience shows that people do not register without being invited several times and often that needs to be done face to face.

“It is just life-changing. Especially for a man to hear ‘real men’ saying things like.... Our marriage is more important than houses or cars and yet we spend money servicing such items.”

We have learned that people are more likely to attend these events when they are invited by a person they know. There are tips to help you invite people below. We strongly recommend that you appoint a few event champions to help you! Event champions are men and women that will:

- Commit to attending the event themselves.
- Promote it in the church and community by telling people about it.
- Invite and encourage others to come along.
- Perhaps not come to the event themselves but who are willing to look after someone else’s children to enable them to come. It’s really worth having a few names of people who are able to informally support the event in this way.

NB You could consider offering formal childcare for the event but we leave this for you to decide as it requires trained personnel and appropriate facilities.

PROMOTION MATERIALS

- 300 A3 colour two fold invitation brochures.
- 6 x A4 colour posters.
- Power Point Slide.
- Promotional DVD.
- Soft copy details about the event and some promotional images for you to put on your local website. Download from www.familylife.uk.com
- FamilyLife will promote your event via the FamilyLife website and national network.
- Your imagination!

You will need to provide us with the following CONFIRMED information when ordering your brochures and posters:

- Date and venue address
- Cost per delegate/couple
- Start/finish times
- If lunch is provided/ any additional costs
- Contact info for registration (name, telephone number. Email, full postal address and website details)

PROMOTION MESSAGES

Making regular announcements at meetings and church services is vital. Make sure they are very positive and upbeat in tone. You could briefly interview a couple up front who have done a seminar before and ask them about their experience. Questions like:

- What did you think before going to the seminar?
- What was the day together seminar like?
- What would you say to anyone thinking of coming?

Overall, make sure your marketing and promotion sends out positive messages such as...

- Relationships are precious and need to be nurtured. People service their cars and look after their gardens... so why not invest in your marriage / relationships?
This seminar is accessible for all couples whether married, living together or engaged. There is no assumption that people are Christians although some openness to Christian values based on principles in the Bible would be helpful.

Through this seminar a good relationship can be transformed (with God’s help) into a great one. Naturally the seminar also helps those who have only been together a short while to lay strong foundations and there will be help for those who are struggling too.

Putting God’s word into practice is part of every Christian’s growth (see Matthew 7:24-27). This seminar will give delegates the opportunity to do that.

It is important to dispel any negative ideas. Many couples will be concerned that they may be put in an embarrassing position or feel judged. This will not be the case. Make sure that people know that there is no sharing in public or in groups.

TIPS FOR INVITING PEOPLE

You can be confident that people who come will benefit. Feedback tells us that even those who come reluctantly leave the seminar feeling they have had a very valuable and enjoyable day. Below are a few tips to help you invite people:

1. **Who?** Think and pray about people to invite and write down their names. Don’t prejudge or dismiss any names too quickly. Consider your sphere of influence: friends, neighbors, church fringe, work/study, sports/leisure, mums & toddlers/school gate, shops/deliveries or workmen...

2. **Pray.** Ask God to help you invite them, to give you the courage to take the initiative and to open their hearts and minds.

3. **Personally invite people.** Here are some ideas:
   - Take the initiative and tell people about the seminar face to face. Saying you’re going really helps. Ask something like... “I think it looks really good and worth giving up one Saturday for. Would you like to come...here’s a brochure?”
   - A recommendation from a man is very powerful...tell the men how much their wives will love them for it!
   - Point people at the FamilyLife website or facebook page to see the video of testimonials.
   - Reassure people that the seminar isn’t about therapy or anything embarrassing – there’s NO GROUP WORK and it’s about making good marriages better. Be familiar with the promotion messages (above).
   - If childcar is an issue see if you can find someone to help – relatives, friends?
   - Give an information brochure. Put a card or post-it note with it with something like...
     - Follow-up face to face or over the phone and ask them if they have had a chance to look at the brochure and whether they would like to come. They will be expecting you to call if you’ve said you would. Be confident because people will be interested.

Remember that ‘success’ in inviting is taking the initiative to give someone an invitation, getting back in touch to see if they can come - and leaving the results to God.

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Thought this looks really interesting. We’ve heard it’s very good! Would you like to come? We’ll phone you in a couple of days to see what you think.

Mike & Sara
WHO TO PROMOTE TO

1. **Promote within your organisation**
   This is vital! You really want members of your church/organisation to catch a vision for the event, be enthusiastic about coming themselves and feel confident to invite their friends and neighbours.
   
   - Encourage leaders to attend and tell others they are doing so (lead from the top/by example!)
   - Ask your pastor/leader to make regular announcements in church services
   - Send a personalised invitation to everyone in your church/organisation
   - Place a written notice in your church bulletin/organisation’s newsletter
   - Set up a manned information table and keep a note of those showing interest to follow-up.
   - Enlist support of local event champions (see page 7)
   - Use church/organisation website

2. **Promote as an outreach in your community**
   
   - Put up posters on notice boards in shopping centres, local libraries, doctors/dental surgeries, gyms, clubs, nurseries and schools.
   - Advertise in local papers – this can be extremely effective with a short editorial
   - Local radio
   - Leave brochures on shop counters

3. **Promote to other organisations**
   
   - Advertise the Seminar to other churches and organisations in your area, especially if you have links with schools. Join forces to promote widely.
   - Widely distribute the seminar brochures with your details.
Fill in the key countdown dates below and put them in your diary.

Please tick the appropriate box as you accomplish each step.

16 weeks prior to the event: _______________ (date). Decide who, when and where

☐ Select a date for the seminar – agree this with FamilyLife.

☐ Decide on a suitable venue and provisionally book it – see page 5

☐ Draw up a provisional budget – see page 6

☐ Decide on catering, costs and practicalities (venue facilities, how to provide food, NB lunch slot is only 50 minutes).

☐ Decide how much you will charge the delegates - see page 6

☐ Decide on your approach to those who want to attend the seminar but need financial help. Setting up a ‘bursary fund’ could be useful.

☐ Complete, sign and send agreement with booking fee to FamilyLife to confirm your booking. Cheques payable to ‘Agape’.

☐ Recruit your Team – see page 5

☐ Begin to develop a promotional plan - see page 7

☐ Order your promotional brochures and posters from FamilyLife (emailing FL the specific details to be added to their information)

☐ Set up your registration process and confirmation letter with directions (see www.familylife.uk.com to download forms and sample letters). See page 5

NOTE: good planning at this stage will pay off later! Make sure you involve others to spread the load – get your team feeling enthusiastic and mobilized.
12 weeks prior to the event: ______________ (date). Promotional details & announcements.

□ Confirm venue booking.

□ Get prayer team up and running.

□ Team to meet regularly and prepare a local promotion plan – press, displays, websites, announcements...

□ Distribute posters and brochures.

□ Draw up a list of and recruit event champions. Give them some simple ‘training’ – make sure they know all about the event, promotion messages and tips on inviting people. See pages 7 & 8

□ Commence registration, confirming bookings in writing/e-mail.

□ Finalise catering plans. Who will provide what (lunch, tea/coffee/ juice?) and when (on arrival, lunchtime, mid morning and afternoon?)

Announce to your church congregation/Organisation

□ Put the first notice in your church bulletin/on notice board

Announce to other organisations

□ Write/e-mail all the churches, schools and organisations in your area advising them of the seminar. Send a sample brochure.

□ Follow up the letter with a phone call. The personal touch is always best.

NOTE: don’t underestimate the importance of good promotion! Event champions can make all the difference.
COUNTDOWN 3

**10 weeks** prior to the event: ________________ *(date)* **Promotion hots up**

- Use PPT slide / promotional DVD for advertising the event to your organisation.
- Forward PPT slide / promotional DVD to other Churches/organisations who are promoting the event and send brochures.
- Verbal announcements made in your church/organisation.
- Set up information tables.

COUNTDOWN 4

**8 weeks** prior to the event: ________________ *(date)* **Reality check!**

- Get your champions and interested couples to register and confirm their booking in writing/e-mail.
- Continue making verbal announcements in church/to organization.
- Contact FamilyLife with current registration numbers.

**NOTE:** it’s time to encourage people to commit to coming, send in registration forms with their booking fees.
COUNTDOWN 5

6 weeks prior to the event: ________________ (date) Take stock

☐ Continue registration of couples and confirm bookings.
☐ Seminar Organiser contacts Team to encourage them.
☐ Check posters, brochures in the community and restock as required.
☐ Ring other churches and organisations in your area. Encourage them and ask if they need any more brochures, posters or fliers.
☐ Ask your pastor/leader to make another public announcement. Consider interviewing a couple up front who have done it before.
☐ Get in touch with your champions to see how they are doing.
☐ During the seminar background music is required in the main meeting room and possibly for the ‘break out’ spaces. Advise FamilyLife if you require them to provide this or whether you will undertake to do so.
☐ Technical check up with FamilyLife and review arrangements (see Note below).
☐ Plan venue layout/ decoration/ break-out spaces/ space for lunch – see page 5
☐ Plan approach to Follow up - see page 16-17.

Note: you need to provide a projection screen and data projector, PA system, lectern and microphones with 2 loudspeakers. FamilyLife may be able to bring these but will need notice to do so.

COUNTDOWN 6

2 weeks prior to event: ________________ (date) Finalisation

☐ Phone all the couples who have shown Interest and encourage them to register. Ask event champions or others to help you ring around. Confirm their bookings.
☐ Contact FamilyLife with current number of registrations (You must have 40 people by this point as a minimum for the event to go ahead).
☐ Confirm personnel to help set up/clear up venue, decorate, etc.
☐ Confirm catering preparations and people to serve, clear-up etc.
FINAL WEEK: ________________________ (Date) Finishing touches

- Make a courtesy reminder call to /e-mail all those attending. We know from experience that people appreciate this. Make sure they know start time, location, and what they need to bring (packed lunch if applicable).

- Contact FamilyLife with final attendance numbers and registration details in completed spread sheet.

- Provide final payment cheque to FamilyLife on the day of the Seminar.

- Final planning for catering.

- Set up – decoration and break out spaces (see Important Note below).

- If you wish generate name badges for delegates, event team and helpers (not needed for facilitators).

- Advise FamilyLife speaker team when they can have access to venue ahead of event – to check AV, put up book stall etc. Allocate a place for the team to meet / store personal items.

**Important Note: break out spaces.**

Each couple will need a private space (2 chairs + optional small table) where they can go at certain ‘couple times’ in the programme to discuss what they have heard. Some couples can stay in the main meeting room appropriately spread out. Others will need to be allocated other break out spaces. It’s essential to think ahead and plan this so couples know exactly where to go on the day (and to avoid confusion and embarrassment). It’s a very good idea to number couple seats in the main meeting room and then decide which numbered couples seats should stay (appropriately spread out) and which ones could be allocated to move to other areas in the building (accordingly numbered). It’s a good idea to allocate these numbered break out spaces to couples when they arrive to register on the day. If you are at all unsure as the FL team for help.
On the day itself you need to provide:

- □ A minimum of 40 booked delegates (20 couples).
- □ Decorated hall as a main meeting room set out with chairs for every couple and the FL team.
- □ Lectern at the front for FL team facilitators.
- □ AV equipment:  
  - Projection screen (see NOTE below)
  - PA system
  - Microphones for 2 facilitators
- □ Soft background music for break out spaces (unless FL team providing)
- □ Name badges for delegates /venue team (optional)
- □ Spare pens for those who do not bring them.
- □ Tables:  
  - Two at Front of hall for lap top+ projector, water and glasses
  - Book stall at back of hall or where refreshments served
  - Registration table(s) at entrance
- □ Refreshments on arrival (optional), mid morning and afternoon and enough people to serve and clear away.
- □ Lunch (unless delegates bringing their own) packed or catered with people to prepare, serve & clear up.
- □ At least two people for registration – to welcome delegates, give out notebooks, schedules, name badges (optional), pens (if required) and allocate break-out spaces.
- □ Clearing up team for the end of the day.
- □ Any promotional information for follow-up events or resources (as agreed with the FL team).

On the day FamilyLife will provide:

- Trained, quality Facilitator Team – generally two or three couples
- Seminar notebooks for each delegate
- Schedule for the day – copy for each couple
- Recommended booklist – copy for each couple
- Feed-back forms
- A range of recommended books for book table – manned by FamilyLife team (to be separate from any venue resources)
- Laptop for presentations (although presentations may be loaded on to your system on arrival – by prior arrangement with FL team).
- Promotional material for future FL events and resources.

NOTE: If main meeting room is very bright then lighting may need to be adjusted so that presentations/film clips can be seen on the screen (blinds required, someone to monitor light switches?)
Follow-up

After the seminar
Our experience shows that the follow-up after the event is just as important as the day itself. The day together seminar usually has a great impact on couples. It is a launch pad for continued growth and strengthening of relationships AND often people have a desire to explore and grow in the Christian faith, both of which are encouraged at the end of the seminar. Many leave full of good intentions. However, the reality is that many plans won’t turn to action unless there are some champions – enthusiastic people to take responsibility for follow-up and make things happen. It’s vital that you’ve identified such champions before the day itself and decided how you will follow up.

Together groups
We recommend that you start at least one Together small group. You will need one champion couple per group to get it off the ground. We also recommend that you have set a date 4-6 weeks after the event to invite interested couples to an informal gathering or an introductory supper for a Together group. The FL team will be providing you with one complementary Together leader’s guide and eight participants workbooks to help you get started. Couples can to continue growing a stronger relationship based on Biblical principles and practical relationship tools in an informal group setting (often in someone’s home and at times to suit the group). Together groups will also enable people to grow in the Christian faith (if desired). There is a video and lots more information about Together on our dedicated website and we recommend that your champion couple register as members – go to www.togetherinmarriage.com.

Other marriage & relationship courses
FamilyLife run Weekends for couples based in a hotel at least once a year. There is more information on our website and booking details www.familylife.uk.com
More courses and resources are provided by other organisations and you may wish to explore these as follow-up options. You can find out more at:
www.careforthefamily.org.uk National events, courses and a range of helpful resources for all the family.
http://relationshipcentral.org Courses and materials for marriage, marriage preparation and parenting.

Couples needing counseling support
We encourage couples needing more support to work through issues with professional help after the day event. We highly recommend that you identify local relationship counseling support in the event that couples come to you for help following the day event. There is help on the FL website about how to find a good counselor. You may know of local couples counselors but you can also contact:
www.relate.org.uk
www.acc.org.uk Association of Christian counsellors

People wanting to explore the Christian faith
You can consider a number of ideas to follow-up people who are interested in finding out more.
- Start by arranging an informal face-to-face meeting maybe over coffee to get to know them better as a person. You can also ask them about their own faith experience and interests. Suggestions of good questions are:
  o How would you describe your spiritual journey so far?
  o Who or what is God to you?
  o Who do you think Jesus was?
  o What question would you ask God if you could?
DON’T judge but DO listen well and ask clarifying questions to understand, like: what makes you believe that?
• Offer a book and arrange to meet up again to discuss it. Suggestions are:
  o ‘Letters from a sceptic’ by Gregory A Boyd & Edward K Boyd
  o ‘Why Jesus’ or ‘Questions of life’ by Nicky Gumbel

• Invite the person to come along to a course to explore the Christian faith. Two well known courses are:
  o Alpha courses http://uk.alpha.org
  o Christianity explored www.christianityexplored.org

What FamilyLife does after the day
FamilyLife will collate all the feedback and send you the following:
• A summary of the day based on the feedback forms completed by the delegates.
• Results of the Enrich Survey (a tool used during the day to measure the effectiveness of the seminar). This will tell you what effect the day has had overall in strengthening relationships.
• The names of those who:
  o Want to join Together small groups
  o Want to find out more about the Christian faith

Your Follow up:

□ Send a note of thanks to those who helped promote or organise the seminar.
□ Phone, write or email all delegates thanking them for their attendance (optional)
□ Review Summary sent by FamilyLife
□ Invite couples to an introductory meeting to find out more about joining Together groups.
□ Meet with those who want to find out more about the Christian faith or have questions
□ Invite couples to our ‘Weekend to Remember’ event to give another opportunity to invest in their marriage in a hotel setting at www.familylife.uk.com/events
□ Give feedback to FamilyLife on your experience of running the event – we want to hear any suggestions about how we can improve it and support your team better.