

Discovering God's Vision for Your Marriage



LEADER'S GUIDE

Clint and Penny Bragg



www.inverseministries.org

About the Leader's Guide

Every lesson in *Discovering God's Vision for Your Marriage* was born out of our experience. Reconciling our marriage after a span of eleven years and a distance of over 3,000 miles presented us with a number of challenges. To this day, we practice and apply the tools contained in this study to our own marriage. This *Leader's Guide* is intended to be used in conjunction with our *Participant's Workbook* and *Instructional DVDs*. It provides pastors and marriage ministry leaders with a basic outline of the lessons for each week and the materials needed for each lesson.

This study is intended to be used once a week for twelve weeks, but it can easily be adapted to another format or schedule, if needed. It is appropriate for newly married couples, veterans of the marriage relationship, couples who have remarried, or those seeking reconciliation. The lessons provide participants with hands-on training and applicable tools to help them gain God's perspective on their marriage.

The accompanying set of *Instructional DVDs* will help participants to more effectively implement the lessons and concepts presented in the workbook. Additional copies of our *Participant's Workbooks*, *Leader's Guides*, and *Instructional DVDs* may be ordered through Inverse Ministries at www.inverseministries.org.

About the Instructional DVDs

We highly recommend that you start each meeting with the corresponding lesson on the DVD. The *Instructional DVDs* are broken down into an introduction for each of the three main sections and one lesson for each week. Review the DVD menus and lesson plans for more information. It is also a good idea to preview the DVDs prior to each week's meeting.

About Inverse Ministries



Through the work of Inverse Ministries, their non-profit organization, Clint and Penny Bragg serve as *marriage missionaries*; sharing their testimony with audiences, teaching seminars for couples, and equipping ministry leaders across the nation. For more information on their ministry or their *40-Day Marriage Mission Trips*, visit www.inverseministries.org.

Lesson Plan Format

Each lesson in this study follows the same basic format. Leaders should always have their own copy of the workbook to refer to during the lessons. It is *not* intended that the participants complete the lessons outside of the meeting times. Instead, questions in the *Making Connections* sections should be completed *during* the group meetings as you facilitate.

Lesson Objective: The lesson objective is what the participants should be able to do or understand by the end of the lesson.

Materials Needed: Each lesson will outline the materials needed, which usually consists of a Bible, the *Instructional DVDs*, a TV, and a DVD player.

Introduction: Sessions should always open in prayer. This is also the time to show the corresponding lesson on the *Instructional DVD* which introduces the concept to be covered.

Lesson Outline: Each lesson is briefly outlined for the leader. The ideas listed in the lesson plans are just suggestions. You may wish to expand the lessons, depending upon the needs of your group. Keep the discussions moving along and look for opportunities to take topics further when necessary. It is also important to maintain a balance of group discussion time and time for couples to work together, depending on the nature of the activities and questions.

Conclusion: Leaders will be instructed as to how the lesson should conclude. All sessions should close with prayer.

Additional Suggestions: At times, there will be some possible extensions and suggestions for the leader. These suggestions are optional.

Advertising the Class

A sample template for advertising this class to your church or community is located on page 25. If possible, make copies of the questionnaire on page 9 and ask registrants to fill it out and turn it in prior to the first class.

Before You Begin

Take a few moments to view the *Introduction for Pastors and Leaders* located on DVD 1 and to review page 8. (In order to get the maximum benefit from the *Leader's Guide*, it is important that you thoroughly review it, along with the *Instructional DVDs* and the *Participant's Workbook*.)

Set aside some time to pray and ask God to help you facilitate your group and gain an understanding of each participant's spiritual and marital background as early in the study as possible. It is also a good idea to have some extra Bibles on hand for those participants who do not bring one to class. Please take a few moments to fill out the *Leader's Prayer Letter* on the following page and send it back to Inverse Ministries prior to starting the study. We will be praying for you.

Table of Contents

PART ONE: Alignment with God's Standards	Page 7
Introduction	Page 8
Week 1: <i>Your Marriage Begins with You</i>	Page 10
Week 2: <i>What's Your Standard?</i>	Page 11
Week 3: <i>Seeking God as One</i>	Page 12
Week 4: <i>The Power of Prayer in Your Marriage</i>	Page 13
PART TWO: Accountability to God's People	Page 14
Introduction	Page 14
Week 5: <i>No One is an Island</i>	Page 15
Week 6: <i>Nurturing Trust in Relationships</i>	Page 16
Week 7: <i>Accountability Agreements</i>	Page 17
Week 8: <i>Courageous Conversations</i>	Page 18
PART THREE: Assessment of God's Vision	Page 19
Introduction	Page 19
Week 9: <i>God's Measuring Stick</i>	Page 20
Week 10: <i>Agree to Disagree</i>	Page 21
Week 11: <i>The Mini-Marriage Retreat</i>	Page 22
Week 12: <i>Putting a Plan into Action</i>	Page 23
Additional Resources	Page 24