

## GOING FURTHER Valley Grove Support

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### Bible Study Groups

We believe that everyone who calls Valley Grove home should be connected to one of our Bible Study Groups. These groups are foundational to sustained life change as **adults study God's Word together and** discuss the issues and challenges of life. Our Bible Study Groups provide an opportunity for adults to pray together, care for one another, and dig deep into the **truths of God's Word**. Most of our ongoing groups meet on Sunday morning, on campus, from 9:15 -10:15. If you would like more information or to get a list of group options, please call the church office.

### Premarital Counseling

If you do not have a relationship with a Valley Grove Pastor who will be conducting your wedding and wish to go through pre-marital counseling call (865) 577-6620.

### Valley Grove Weddings

For information on scheduling a wedding at Valley Grove or with a pastor call the church office at (865) 577-6620.

## Have you completed the 120 Day Appraisal?

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### Where to Start?

Step 1 - Assess your level of intentionality over the past 120 days.

Step 2 – Identify your specific Life Season, Stage and/or Situation.

Step 3 – Create a Faith at Home plan for the next 120 Days.

### Want More Information?

Call the Church Office  
(865) 577-6620

Ask to schedule a meeting with a pastor to talk more about the next steps in growing faith at home.

Visit the Website  
[www.valleygrove.org/faithathome](http://www.valleygrove.org/faithathome)

# *Engaged*

## GETTING READY FOR MARRIAGE



## *Faith at Home*

EQUIPPING FAMILIES TO MAKE DISCIPLES

## GETTING READY FOR MARRIAGE

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Congratulations on this wonderful milestone. Few seasons in life are filled with as much joy and anticipation as the time spent preparing to get married.

**You've** probably heard it said that as you **plan your wedding, you shouldn't forget to** plan your marriage. But it sounds so **abstract to "plan a marriage" in the midst** of the more tangible (and demanding) project of planning a wedding.

### How do you plan for it?

#### STEP ONE

##### Learn from Others

Research demonstrates the long-term value of making time now for marriage education classes or premarital counseling. Those efforts go even further when you supplement them by spending time with an older married couple whose relationship you admire.

#### STEP TWO

##### Plan with Patience

Couples often overlook the importance of using the wedding planning season as practical marriage preparation. You can intentionally set the tone for your marriage by the values you live out in

planning your big day. The transformational process of **"becoming one"** can occur in everything from how you assemble your guest list to how you determine a honeymoon destination. Consider beginning the habit of a weekly date night or times of intentional connection to set a foundation for your marriage.

#### STEP THREE

##### Discover the Purpose of Marriage

A wedding is bigger than you as an individual and even bigger than you both as a couple. Ephesians 5 describes a couple laying down their lives for one another and **becoming one as an icon of God's sacrificial love for His church. That's the counter-cultural call of Christian marriage.** Consider reading one of the books suggested in the Going Further section together to deepen your understanding of the larger purpose of your union.

#### STEP FOUR

##### Create a Meaningful Event

Our culture today can often put more **emphasis on "the big day" than preparing for a lifetime together. That's not to say big celebrations are out of order, but many risk making them so complex that they fail to honor God or the community they are uniting - both of which are the basis for a strong Christian marriage.**

## GOING FURTHER RESOURCES

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***Before You Say "I Do": A Marriage Preparation Manual for Couples***  
(H. Norman Wright and Wes Roberts)

***When Sinners Say "I Do": Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage***  
(Dave Harvey)

***Getting Ready for Marriage: A Practical Road Map for Your Journey Together*** (Book & Workbook)  
(Jim Burns and Doug Fields)

***Lovology: God. Love. Marriage. Sex. And the Never-Ending Story of Male and Female***  
(John Mark Comer)

*Gives a biblical vision for sexual intimacy and marriage and tackles difficult questions related to human sexuality.*