

GEORGE **AND** TONDRA GREGORY

The Marriage

GAME

PLAN

DEVELOPING A WINNING STRATEGY
FOR MARITAL SUCCESS



COACH'S GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

George and Tondra Gregory have a heart to help couples succeed in their marriages. That's why, for over 25 years, they've invested in relationships through their marriage ministry, Journey for Life. Their experience led them to write ***The Marriage Game Plan***, and now this church kit will offer a guide to churches desiring to help the couples in their congregations have healthy, flourishing, godly marriages.

PREPARING FOR THE EVENT

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- **Prayer**—The most important aspect of any event like this is prayer. Recruit a prayer team and designate a leader who will be intentional about praying specifically for all areas of the event. Ask the Lord to direct you as you pull together an event team and a plan of action. Then, once you've assembled your team, pray for guidance on what to include in the night. As you go through the planning process, continue to pray for God's blessing over your team, your plan, the event, and the couples who will be attending.
 - **Planning team**—You'll want people who are passionate about God's game plan for marriage helping you. Ask for volunteers who are willing to lend their gifts to planning and executing a successful event. And, referring back to the first point, pray for the guidance and discernment to help you find these volunteers.
 - **Planning meetings**—Over the course of planning the event, you'll want to touch base with your team. Decide how often to meet and what to discuss. If you can plan the event in one meeting, great! If you find that there's more to cover than one meeting can hold, make sure you allow enough time and meetings to thoroughly organize the night.
 - **Have fun!**—This night is meant to be an enjoyable experience, not only for the couples in attendance, but for those putting the event together. Allow yourself to enjoy the experience as well, and you'll be blessed along with attendees.
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PLANNING TIMELINE

3-6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE:

- Determine your location and reserve the space
- Organize your team and meet to discuss the event. Decide on how often you'll meet, if more than once
- To order copies of *The Marriage Game Plan* for your church at a discounted price contact us at rudym.kish@davidccook.org.
- If you would like to book George & Tondra Gregory to speak at your event please complete a speaker inquiry form [at https://journeyforlifeforlife.org/speaking](https://journeyforlifeforlife.org/speaking).

2 MONTHS IN ADVANCE:

- Determine roles within your team: emcee, food crew, setup/cleanup, decorating, entertainment and games, tech team, etc.
- Begin posting information about the event on the church website and social media.
- Begin announcing the event in Sunday services and/or bulletins
- Order books (if the church is providing them)

1 MONTH IN ADVANCE:

- Begin collecting RSVPs from couples planning to attend. Be sure to ask attendees if they have any special dietary restrictions!
- Begin gathering supplies
- Plan menu

3 WEEKS IN ADVANCE:

- Hand out fliers to remind couples about the event
- Finish gathering supplies

1 WEEK IN ADVANCE:

- Send reminders to couples who have signed up. Encourage them to wear their favorite team's merch (jersey, ballcap, sweatshirt, etc.)
- Begin decorating the space
- Grocery shop for meal supplies

ALL THROUGHOUT:

- Pray!



SUPPLIES/ACTIVITIES



- Social media graphics will be available for advertising during church services leading up to the event, as well as for use throughout the night.
- Decorate the space using various sports themes. The space can resemble a stadium, arena, or ballpark. Have fun with this!
- **Supplies:**
 - Props for the photobooth
 - Foam footballs and basketballs
 - Hula hoops of various sizes
 - Baskets
 - Volleyball/badminton net
 - Lightweight balls/shuttlecocks/paddles
 - Wordsearch
 - Inexpensive door prizes/goodie bags
 - List of ice breaker questions (can be a sheet of paper or individual cards)
 - Pencils/pens/paper for notetaking, if desired
- **Activities**—Providing activities for couples to engage in between the time they arrive and the time the program begins can be a great way to get them excited about the event. Here are some ideas:
 - **Photobooth:** Set up a space for couples to take photos together and designate someone from the planning team to be the photographer. Have some sports themed props (signs, bats, balls, etc.) for the couples to hold up to make the photobooth fun!
 - **Football toss:** Have rings of various sizes (Large, medium, and small hula hoops) and encourage couples to try to throw the football through the hoops.
 - **Basketball:** Set up small baskets and foam basketballs and encourage them to work together to make as many baskets as they can.
 - **Volleyball/badminton court:** If you have room, set up a net and have some lightweight balls or shuttlecocks for couples to volley back and forth. Encourage people to team up with other couples to kickstart some community building!
 - **Sports-themed wordsearch:** Find a free downloadable sports-themed wordsearch for those couples who are less athletically inclined, or who just want a quiet activity to do together.
 - **Get creative!** The possibilities are endless!



• Ice breaker questions



- Couples introduce themselves
- Talk about your sports merch you wore
- If you could be a professional athlete in any sport, which would you choose and why?
- Who is your favorite athlete of all time?
- What is your favorite team?
- What brought you to the event?
- What do you hope to gain from this time?

SUGGESTED EVENT TIMELINE - 1 1/2-2 HOURS (feel free to adjust based on your specific event)

- Setup—1 hour, 15 minutes
- Schedule
 - Pray—1 hour, 15 minutes
 - Doors open 30 minutes before the event starts. Time for mingling, activities, connection
 - Dinner—45 minutes. Time to eat and engage in ice breakers
 - Welcome video from George and Tondra—5 minutes.
 - Pastor speaks—30 minutes
 - Possible topics from the book to share on:
 - - Considering how your background—upbringing, hurts, triumphs, culture—affect your marriage.
 - What is a Marriage Game Plan? p. 21-26
 - Putting it Into Practice from the end of each chapter
 - Review of God's design for marriage (Eph. 5)
 - Break down traditional marriage vows
 - Covenant vs. contract
 - Chapter 3: tips on teamwork; discipline & daily decisions
 - Mindset
 - Similarities and differences
 - Identifying and addressing opponents to your marriage
 - Building trust
 - Wrap up 5 minutes
- Closing
 - Prayer of blessing
 - Encouragement to work through the book as couples
 - Encouragement to form some groups to foster community and support

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Do you want to have a time of worship?
- What resources can the church offer going forward from the event?
i.e. small group helps, marriage ministry focus, etc.
- What is the budget?

