

"If Two Agree" A Marriage Enrichment Seminar

With Herb and Edi Hutchinson



"I tell you if two of you agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two ... come together in my name, there I am with them." *Matthew 18:10*

Many of you who have known us in ministry in the past eight years are aware that we do a multi-media ministry. Although we will use video clips through out the seminar, the majority of the seminar teaching will be live by Herb and Edi. It is not a video seminar. The video will be used to enhance the live teaching and interaction with the couples. Music will help create the overall atmosphere of the sessions together.

For more Information on booking a seminar contact:

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"If Two Agree" Marriage Seminar with Herb and Edi Hutchinson

This seminar is a special time for couples to get away from all the hustle and bustle of every day life with all its stress and demands to concentrate on the first, and most vital relationship, their Marriage. Divorce statistics show us that couples are not managing their relationships very well. They are searching for some answers. One weekend seminar is hardly enough time to answer all the questions. Each area of discussion could take weeks! However, it is an excellent opportunity to say some basic ground work to assist couples in working through predictable problems of marriage.

Some Topics That May Be Covered In Your Seminar

- Unrealistic Expectations of Marriage
- Vital Communication
- Seasons of Married Love
- Biblical Perspective on Marriage
- Commitment, Friendship, and Intimacy
- Laughter, Fun, and Survival
- Secrets of Life Long Relationships
- Marriage Agreements
- Creative Conflict
- Goal Setting

Where to Begin: Usually a pastor, planning committee, or a key person in a church fellowship or retreat center will contact us to choose a date and begin the arrangements.

The Place: The key is to find a place away from the church. The overnight accommodations for the couples should be pleasant and have a private bath. The facility choice should be conducive to a "dating" atmosphere. Many couples have not gotten away alone together since their honeymoon. This is a big part of the renewal process. We strongly suggest that your planning committee go to the prospective place and check the rooms and the conference meeting room that will be used: Is the conference room private, roomy with comfortable chairs? It is necessary to make sure that the meeting room be available for the entire seminar. The equipment setup cannot be moves once it is set up. We need to be able to get into the conference room by 12:00 noon on Friday before the seminar begins to have ample time to set up, prepare, have time to eat and rest before the seminar begins. Also the conference room will need to be available until 6:00 PM on Saturday to break down the equipment.

In some cases, a late checkout for couples on Saturday and a later use of the swimming pool Friday night can be negotiated. Don't hesitate to check motels, retreat centers, and hotels. Sometimes the off season rates in big hotels are attractive. In our experience, we have observed in some areas a group rate can be as low as \$50-\$60 per night plus food bringing the total to about \$100.00 per couple. In other areas that may not be possible. If the seminar cost is too high, it will hinder couples from coming that really need to be there.

Meals: Some accommodations offer a package with meals included. This is great if it is not too expensive. If its a continental breakfast, is that enough to satisfy people until lunchtime? It may be possible to make arrangements to have coffee and snacks provided for Friday night after the opening session. Some places will allow the group to bring their own goodies. It is especially important to have coffee available for the break in the morning session. It's very nice to have a nice luncheon together. Lunch seems to work out better than a closing meal on Saturday evening. The reason being that couples have already checked out of their rooms. The afternoon session ends around 3:00PM. The couples tend to just sit around and wait for the meal just before going home.

What about dress? Casual and comfortable!

What to bring? We ask that couples bring their wedding pictures to display, people love this! Notepads, pens and Bibles will be helpful. Some retreat planners like to prepare helpful packets with preprinted nametags, notepaper, pens and marriage articles. (Optional)

We will provide: The total program including music, worship and teaching. We provide the sound system and helpful handouts. We really need the entire session of Friday night to establish a rapport with group preparing the way for the main body of teaching on Saturday morning. We are totally open to whatever the Holy Spirit wants to do especially in relationships.

Schedule:

(Always flexible to meet your needs)

Friday Night:

- Registration: 5:00PM arrival, check in, getting comfortable.
- Session #1: 7:30-8:00 Introductory session to about 10:00PM (Most couples have a hard time getting away from home on Friday night, so we start later)
- Snacks available after session

Saturday Morning:

- Breakfast; if the facility is providing meals they will probably establish the meal times (some are a little flexible).
- Session #2: 9:00-10:30
- Coffee Break
- Session #3:10:45-Noon
- Lunch Break
- Session #4
- 1:30-3:00PM Closing

Extended Session:

If your group chooses to stay two nights, on Saturday from lunch until 7:00PM is free time for couples to communicate alone together and enjoy the facilities available. The evening session will begin at 7:00PM. Sunday morning is always a beautiful worship and sharing time together. God has already begun His healing work! One of the most frequently mentioned comments on the seminar evaluation is that one night is not long enough. Extended sessions are wonderful for couples, but may not be feasible.

Little Niceties: Some retreat planners have added a special touch by placing neat little things in the couples' rooms before they arrive. Here are some ideas. Small candles with matches, single carnation, 2 large chocolate cookies, 2 chocolates, 2 mints, 2 apples, 2 candy kisses, sparkling cider with two plastic glasses, scripture fortune cookies, special scripture scrolls tied with a ribbon, bubble bath. Go ahead get creative. Watch stores for closeouts after Valentine's Day for neat ideas. Christian book stores are also a great source for little goodies.

Please note: Since most of the seminar activities involve interaction between the husband and wife we encourage both mates to be there. We also encourage that each couple are able to attend the entire seminar and are able stay over night with other participants. It is especially important that they have time together to focus on their relationship without the usual home interruptions and helps them to feel relaxed and part of the group dynamic.

Retreat size: We would ask for a minimum of eight to ten couples. We don't have a maximum limit. However, we have observed that having 25-30 couples keeps the seminar more personal with many more entering into discussions. We have done as many as 100 couples.

Finances: What are our financial needs? We never ask for an exact amount for a seminar. We do ask that you prayerfully consider and keep in mind that we are a full time ministry, and it is our only source of income. We also thank you for considering our expenses of travel, food, etc, to and from the seminar. For almost 30 years we have trusted God for His provision in the area of finances and have found Him to be faithful.

Helping Couples: One church set up a budgeting plan for couples to pay so much each week, months in advance of the seminar. Another church sold gift certificates to couples at Christmas time. It was the couple's Christmas gift to each other. Other churches have auctions or fund raisers to send couples who cannot afford to go.

Some couples desperately need to get away. This weekend away could make the difference in whether a marriage stays together. In every seminar there has been at least one or two couples who were considering separation. Try to keep the costs from being too high, it will eliminate couples who need to be there. We suggest that at least half of the tuition be paid in advance by the week before the seminar.

The following is a partial list of over 100 seminars that Herb and Edi have conducted:

United Methodist and Dover Assembly of God Church North Conway, NH (2)
Mt View Assembly of God Las Vegas, NV
Green Valley Assembly of God Green Valley, Henderson, NV
New Covenant Praise Church Aiken, SC (2)
Webster Assembly of God Webster, NY (2)
Mt. Blue Assembly of God Farmington, ME
Batavia Assembly of God Batavia, NY (At Niagara Falls, NY)
Northern New England District, Assembly of God couples retreat
N. Conway, NH
Community Bible Chapel Montpelier, VT
Faith Christian Center Bedford, NH
Agape Fellowship Church Brattleboro, VT
Calvary Temple Assembly of God Fall River, MA (2)
Crossroads Christian Counseling Center Bangor, ME
Southern New England District, Assembly of God couples retreat
Old Sturbridge, MA
Thomasville Assembly of God Thomasville, NC
Holden Chapel Holden, MA
Calvary Assembly of God Stanford, CT

Here are some evaluations from Seminar participants:

"... This seminar helped me to open up to my husband more, and get rid of a lot of garbage that I brought into our marriage"
- *Corning, NY*

"... I can honestly say that at this time right now, our marriage is back on Holy Ground and better than it has been in months buy the touch of the Holy Spirit through your ministry this weekend."
- *Painted Post, NY*

"... We like the openness that we were able to feel with you. I could see that you really love each other. Praise God for your heart and feeling."
- *Las Vegas, NV*

"... I liked the topics that were discussed. The whole seminar was very innovative and really kept my attention. You both have a wonderful sense of humor which kept me at ease. You both were a blessing to us and we enjoyed your teaching and fellowship this weekend."
- *Manchester, NH*



We've Come Quite A Way To Be Here!

The statement has been made "If Christianity doesn't work at home, maybe it doesn't work at all!" There must be a blending of spiritual ideals with a balance in the practical application with a little seasoning of romance! A major part of blending comes about through communication in every aspect of marriage. It's not just talking but feelings actions, non-verbal responses, commitment, trust and caring about our mate's needs.

Drawing from 44 years of experience in our own marriage and family, pouring through all available related materials, videos, books, and attending other seminars, one on one counseling and having taught marriage seminars for over 20 years, we bring to you a seminar that we believe will impact your marriage relationship, accented by music throughout.

When we began teaching "If Two Agree" seminars we did not feel that we were qualified. God spoke to our spirits and said, "You prepare the atmosphere and I will do the work". He has been faithful! We stand in awe of what we see the Holy Spirit doing. In one retreat, we really struggled and felt the barriers, when a deacon of a prominent church stood up and confessed that he and his wife had only been acting the part and had come to the point that they really needed help. He wept and we wept with the whole group to see a break through. We are first to confess that we are working continually on our marriage too, but hope to share things that we have learned along the way. We are looking forward to having a great seminar with your group. God has promised great things.

Warmly,
Herb and Edi Hutchinson

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