

No. 27 **Getting Marriage Off to a Good Start**

PLEASE NOTE: Help newly married couples see how Bible principles can help them adjust to marriage and find joy together. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

MARRIAGE IS A SACRED COMMITMENT (4 min.)

Marriage is a gift from Jehovah God that can bring great joy to both husband and wife [Read **Genesis 2:23, 24**] (Ge 2:18-22)

God created marriage to be an honorable arrangement and a permanent union (Mr 10:9; Heb 13:4; lvs 148 ¶5)

In the Bible, Jehovah provides wise counsel that can help new couples build a strong marriage

BE READY TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AFTER MARRIAGE (12 min.)

After your wedding day, you may be surprised by some of your mate's imperfections

Be patient and quick to forgive [Read **1 Corinthians 13:4, 5**] [Image 1]

Instead of focusing on your mate's faults, focus on his or her good qualities

Learn to put your mate's interests ahead of your own (1Co 10:24)

Be flexible and willing to yield

Kindly consider your mate's sexual needs, and avoid acting selfishly (1Co 7:3-5; w16.08 15 ¶7-9)

Do not look to the past; the two of you are now a team (Ec 4:9, 10; 7:10)

Do not compare your mate with others or show romantic interest in anyone else (Pr 5:15-18)

Your bond with your mate now takes priority over relationships with parents, family, and friends (w11 10/15 16-17 ¶18; w11 1/15 14 ¶9)

LEARN TO COMMUNICATE WELL (10 min.)

Communicate openly, even when difficulties arise [Read **Ephesians 4:26, 27**] [Image 2]

Talk matters out, listening respectfully to each other (Pr 25:11; Jas 1:19; w13 5/15 15-16 ¶4-8)

Tactfully express your needs and desires; do not expect your mate to read your mind

Handle disagreements with love (Col 3:14)

Have realistic expectations; no two people will agree on everything

Apply the Bible's practical advice on making peace (Pr 12:18; 26:20)

BUILD A STRONG MARRIAGE BY APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES (4 min.)

A marriage guided by Bible principles brings both partners security, and it honors Jehovah

Make sure to keep Jehovah in your marriage [Read **Ecclesiastes 4:12**] [Image 3]

Regularly studying the Bible together will draw you closer together (w08 3/15 10 ¶11)

Pray together daily

With Jehovah's help, you can build a lasting, happy marriage

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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S-34-E No. 27 1/20