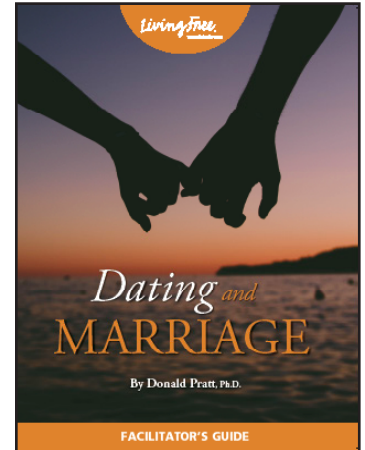


10 Reasons for using *Dating and Marriage* in jails, prisons, and recovery houses

Over the years we have noticed that certain of our courses are more in demand in our settings than in others. The more popular requests are for anger management and parenting and we have good course books for these. The reasoning seems to be that these courses will best address recidivism (or repeat offending). Another reason is that these two courses are the ones that are most likely to be accepted by lawyers, courts, and Children and Families for meeting sentencing or case management requirements. Recidivism is a bit more complicated than that and we believe that all of our books are important in reducing it.

Today we will be discussing the *Dating and Marriage* course. Here are ten good reasons why it is important.



1. Unresolved relationship problems often contribute to becoming incarcerated and recidivism afterwards.
2. Inmates think about dating and marriage a lot. The argument that this is not something that they should be thinking about is flawed. They **are** thinking about it whether a course like this is offered or not, often without any guidance.
3. This course can change society for the better. We had a report of an inmate who took the course and then sent it to his mother. It saved her marriage.
4. The first thing most inmates think about is who they are going to live with when they get out and it is usually with a boyfriend or girlfriend on the first day out. That relationship may be toxic and part of the reason for how they got into trouble in the first place.
5. Women can and usually get pregnant with their live-in partners who are not living the Biblical lifestyle. This often results in unplanned and unwanted children with little provision for their care and nurturing.
6. Both men and women need understanding of the importance of commitment and its implications.
7. Both men and women need better ways of communication. This is a basic element of family stability.
8. Men and women need to understand their reasonable roles and responsibilities as a partner. Men need to accept the responsibilities of being a father, whether financial or otherwise. Women need to accept the needs of their children as a part of dating and marriage.
9. Men and women need to know what is scriptural and what is not. Quoting scripture is one thing. Applying it is another. Knowing what the Bible really says and what it does not is still another.
10. As with our other courses, our clients learn and see applications of how this material relates to their situation. It is not about how many facts they can learn and take a test on it. They need real-life examples of successful living.

Leader Training Session Offered On February 3rd

Family Integrity Training is offering a Leader Training Session on Saturday, February 3rd. The session runs from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. with a 1 hour lunch break around noon. The \$55 cost includes a 100 plus page Facilitator Handbook, and completion leads to a facilitator certification with one year membership. Membership benefits include access to coursework handouts, books for facilitators and students, certificates for course completions, along with mailing costs and FIT office support. The \$40 annual membership makes the session not only worthwhile, but very practical. The course assists you in transitioning from a presenter to a true facilitator, which is most effective in increasing student participation. Register by [clicking this link](#).

Course Completions

*December - 121
2023 - 1,557*

Why Not A Palace Birth? by John Ringleb

I decided to do this piece for at least two reasons. First, this is our December issue, and secondly, Christ's birth was a promise from God that was fulfilled at Easter over 33 years later.

One thing that struck me was that God sent a star to the three wise men, but sent an angel with a magnificent chorus of angels to shepherds to invite them to see the King of Kings. Later on, Christ would chose many fishermen to be his disciples. It is clearly evident to me that if God wanted the grand birth of His only son, He would have picked a much more magnificent place for Jesus to be born. Then I thought that if Christ was born in such a place, those who God wanted to find Him would have not even approached, much less been allowed in. I believe the manger was not only a lowly place but a place where any could come, including the lowly of heart, the ones who would could find peace in their hearts and rest for their weary souls.

The other night, I found the verses that have been following me lately. I believe that I first encountered them when I sang Handel's Messiah in high school. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11: 28-30)

I believe that Family Integrity Training (FIT) embodies the idea that any can receive this rest for their souls. Many are the weary, the ones that have lost. FIT offers ways for others who have failed, maybe time again and again, who want to find new ways to restore rest to their troubled lives. By entering into our gentle and facilitated classes they are able to choose a new course for their lives. Then, like the shepherds in the fields who where the first viewers of the Christ child, easily found Him and were awed at the precious gift of God to mankind.