

## SCOPE & CYCLE

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One thing that has been and always will be an essential part of our DNA at MarriedPeople is this—you know your church and your community better than we do. We strive to produce materials that can work in any size church, in any setting, but ultimately you are the boss. (Well, you probably have a boss or two, or more, but you know what we're trying to say.)

Sometimes we all need a little help getting started. Being strategic about marriage ministry can be a little overwhelming. So we've put together this scope and cycle to think of the year in four seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. Whatever point you jump into marriage ministry is fine. Some people prefer to dive in the Winter around Valentine's, others like to start in the Fall. Either way works.

Let the rhythm of your church and community calendar guide you. You want to keep in mind things like the school calendar, big events, sporting events, and major holidays.

Working with those calendars will help couples plan their calendars. They won't feel like they have to choose between a marriage event and the local high school football game (which in the South in the Fall is a big deal). And you can plan events that won't compete with other ministries for resources and space.

There will always be something else on the calendar but lessen the impact on a couple's schedule as much as possible.

Whenever you start, we suggest doing the Larger Group Experiences in this order for the CLEAR Strategy Pack. However, feel free to mix it up. Whatever works best for you.

**Get Clear on . . . Your Team (Core 4 Habit: Have Serious Fun)**

**Get Clear on . . . What's in Your Backpack (Core 4 Habit: Respect & Love)**

**Get Clear on . . . God's Help (Core 4 Habit: Love God First)**

**Get Clear on . . . Technology (Core 4 Habit: Practice Your Promise)**

## MARRIEDPEOPLE SCOPE & CYCLE

### FALL

**Overview: plan for . . .**

**2 Larger Group Experiences**

**Small Group Study**

**2 Date Nights (individual)**

**Monthly email of MP Monthly**

#### **Larger Group Experience:**

##### **1st Larger Group Experience**

- August or September
- 2 to 3 weeks AFTER school starts
- Let the “beginning of school madness” calm down
- Interchangeable with Date Night

##### **2nd Larger Group Experience (optional)**

- November or EARLY December
- Keep in mind Thanksgiving and Christmas—plan your event after Thanksgiving but before the holiday madness starts

#### **Small Group Study:**

- September or early October
- Great time for a short-term study. Provides something for those new to the area or church to “test” the waters by attending a study on something that they are passionate about . . . their marriage.

#### **Date Night (Individual):**

##### **1st Date Night**

- 4 to 5 weeks after the first Large Group Event
- Interchangeable with Large Group

##### **2nd Date Night**

- Early December
- Focuses the couple on each other for one night during a crazy month

#### **Monthly email:**

- Send out MP Monthly at the first of each month

### WINTER

**Overview: plan for . . .**

**Larger Group Experience**

**Date Night**

**Monthly email of MP Monthly**

*\*This season includes Valentine’s Day! Provide something for men to take their wives too either before or on Valentine’s Day.*

#### **Larger Group Experience:**

- Late January or Early February

#### **Date Night (Individual):**

- Late February or March

#### **Monthly email:**

- Send out MP Monthly at the first of each month

## MARRIEDPEOPLE SCOPE & CYCLE

### SPRING

**Overview: plan for . . .**

**Larger Group Experience**

**Date Night**

**Small Group Study**

**Monthly email of MP Monthly**

#### **Larger Group Experience:**

- April
- Keep in mind Easter and Spring Break schedules

#### **Small Group Study:**

- March or April
- Available for those who didn't go through the study in the Fall
- Or if you want to do an additional Small Group Study, check out the Orange Store for other resources.

#### **Date Night (Individual):**

- May
- 2 or 3 weeks BEFORE the end of school, before the "end of the school year madness" starts

#### **Monthly email:**

- Send out MP Monthly at the first of each month

### SUMMER

**Overview: plan for . . .**

**Monthly email of MP Monthly**

#### **Monthly email:**

- Send out MP Monthly at the first of each month

*\*Summer is a great time for you, the leader, to evaluate and plan for the next year.*