



marriage vow renewal

Attraction

For many people, the most “spiritual” time of their life was their wedding. Some have not seen a church since. Some did not have a church wedding but wish they did. Hence, this event attracts many people for a variety of reasons. This is a group event, involving 10 to 50 couples, depending on venue size.

Bridge

An emotional bridge is always a good one, and this one is the commitment of each person to the other through vows. Weddings bring back warm memories and cause people to reconsider their steps, providing a natural bridge for sharing God’s purpose for marriage.

Weddings bring back warm memories

Communicating the Gospel

A natural progression has been built to the point of sharing how a person can know Jesus as his personal Savior. The pastor, in his charge to the couples, has set forth the biblical foundation of marriage. After the wedding vows, it is a natural time for the pastor to share the way of salvation, stressing to the couples that perhaps they would like to now “start over” (rededicate) with God, or perhaps they would now like to commit their marriage to God by accepting Jesus as their personal Savior.

Event-Specific Preparation

- In follow-up, consider offering (for sale or free) marriage-building resource materials. Scheduling a marriage-building discipleship class to begin the week after the renewal service would be timely.
- Make the event special by dressing it up. Some churches have made marriage licenses suitable for framing. A table can be set up where the pastor meets each couple and signs their “renewal” license.
- Keep the details of the actual service quiet. The element of surprise in some of the music and pastor’s comments is very important. Therefore, involve as few people as possible in the actual planning of the service.
- Do just the opposite for the reception, however. Involve many creative people. They will have great fellowship putting together the event, and that will motivate them to invite more unchurched couples and to invite others to do the same.
- Be prepared for an outpouring of professional counseling needs—such a time of renewal will cause much review and reconsideration that stirs up issues couples want or must have to deal with.

Enlist, equip, and mobilize the following ministry teams. Refer to the Ministry Team Preparation section of the manual for instructions on how the teams will function.

- Counseling/Follow-up Team
- Spiritual Preparation Team
- Promotion Team
- Effective Prayerwalking
- Creative/Worship Team
- Logistics Team
- Budget Preparation