Gospel-Centered Marriage Weekender

The *Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage* (GCM) Weekender is a Friday night, Saturday morning marriage enrichment event. Below is a template schedule and sample email communication to help churches through how to maximize the impact of this event.

Unique Style: The GCM Weekender is taught in a *teach-and-talk format*. This means time is built into the schedule for couples to begin processing the material at the event. A theme of the event is, "The most important person for you to learn from this weekend is not the person in front of you (Brad), but the person beside you (your spouse)."

Prior to GCM Weekender Email

Here is a template email you can send to couples in advance of the event as they RSVP.

> Dear [Name],
>
> We're excited that you'll be joining us for the **GCM Weekender** on **date**!
>
> **This email has one purpose: *to help you get the most from the weekend!***
>
> It can be easy to just "slide in" to an event like this after a busy week. It takes intentionality to transition from your normal routine to investing in your marriage.
>
> Here are **three ways** you can mentally and relationally get ready for the GCM Weekender between now and when you arrive.
>
> 1. Pray together that God would teach you something in our time together that enriches your marriage.
> 2. Go to dinner with your spouse/fiancé on Friday before we get started. We're starting at 7pm to allow time for this.
>   - Dress up and treat the evening like it's special.
>   - Over dinner take time to affirm at least two things about your spouse/fiancé that you haven't mentioned in a while.
> 3. If you are already married, consider staying at a hotel for the night to make this a dedicated weekend of marriage enrichment.
>
> **Weekend Schedule:**
> Friday (7 pm to 9 pm)
> Saturday, September 21 (9 am to Noon)

If you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you next weekend!

GCM Weekender Schedule

Friday Night (7:00 to 9:30 pm):

- 6:00 to 7:00 pm - Doors open for check-in
    - GCM Notebooks (available as PDF for printing)
- **Pastor: Welcome**
- **Worship** (2-3 songs)
- Transition (optional) https://vimeo.com/858746171
- **7:30 - GCM Introduction and Foundations**
    - **Sample Teaching:** www.bradhambrick.com/gcmfoundations (Lessons, 4, 5, and 6)
    - Couple's Discussion Time (intro teach and talk format)
- **8:30 - Pastor Close Evening**
    - Arrival time and instructions for tomorrow
- **8:30 - Dessert Reception (Optional)**
    - This can be an effective way to create interaction between couples at your church.

Saturday Morning (9:00 am to 12:30 pm):

- 8:00 am - Doors open for check-in and breakfast
    - Another opportunity to create interaction between couples at your church.
- **9:00 – Pastor: Welcome back and devotional**
- **9:30 – GCM Communication: Listening Skills**
    - **Sample Teaching:** www.bradhambrick.com/gcmcommunication (Lesson 2)
    - Couple's Discussion Time
- **10:00 – GCM Decision Making I of II**
    - **Sample Teaching:** www.bradhambrick.com/gcmdecisionmaking (Lesson 4)
    - Couple's Discussion Time
- 10:30 - Break
- **10:45 – Differentiate: Marriage Preparation, Enrichment, and Restoration**
- 10:55 - Play GCM mentor/mentee video (optional)
    - Link: https://vimeo.com/750493102
    - *If your church wants to start a GCM mentoring ministry this video would cast a vision for this ministry.*
- **11:00 - GCM Decision Making: Decision Making II of II**
    - **Sample Teaching:** www.bradhambrick.com/gcmdecisionmaking (Lesson 5)
    - Couple's Discussion Time
- **11:30 – GCM Intimacy: Head-Heart-Hands**
    - **Sample Teaching:** www.bradhambrick.com/gcmintimacy (Lesson 3)
    - Couple's Discussion Time
- **Noon – Closing: Pastor**

The GCM Weekender is designed to be easy for your church to host and provide couples with a high degree of marital interaction before, during, and after the event. If your church is interested in hosting a GCM Weekender, please visit www.bradhambrick.com/events to identify dates that may be available and to download my FAQ sheet for scheduling external events.