

With This Ring... We Plan!

Introduction

Planning a wedding is exciting. In addition to the many decisions to make for the wedding, it is also the time to consider the financial aspects of the marriage. This lesson guides participants through aspects of financial planning for a wedding. It also discusses how couples can start their marriages on solid financial footing.

Lesson Objectives

As a result of this lesson, learners will:

- » explore wedding planning and getting married from a financial standpoint, and
- » be familiar with several areas couples will want to discuss as they build their financial future together.

Intended Audiences

Couples who are planning to get married.

Before the Lesson

- » Review the *With this Ring... We Plan!* fact sheet (MF3378) and leader's guide (MF3379).
- » Obtain copies of the fact sheet for each participant. Make copies of the materials for any of the activities you are using and the evaluation for each participant.
- » Assemble other supplies you may want to use (e.g. sticky notes, paper, flipchart, markers) and gather materials needed for the lesson activities that you choose to do.
- » Arrange chairs in a circle or semicircle to encourage discussion and participation.

Presenting the Lesson

Share the "ground rules" of the session with learners, adapted from *Making Your Money Work*, Purdue University Extension, Trainer's Guide (CFS-679G).

1. Respect the views of others.
2. Listen to each other.
3. Share feelings/thoughts.
4. Be open to new ideas.
5. Suspend judgment.



Summarize objectives. Ask learners if there are other issues they came to learn about. Make a list of those issues on a whiteboard or flipchart. Address them as time and knowledge allow. Offer to research issues as needed and respond to the participant after the lesson.

Present the lesson using the fact sheet and the information included there for content as well as the lesson activities included in this guide.

Planning a wedding can be stressful. All couples need to learn how to manage differences of opinion and conflict. While a discussion of those skills is beyond the scope of this lesson, *Couple Talk: Enhancing Your Relationship* fact sheet (MF3223) and leader's guide (MF3224) are resources available from K-State Research and Extension that explore those skills and complement this lesson. If the topic of managing differences of opinion comes up while teaching this lesson, share some key points with participants:

- » Be willing to listen to each other without interruption even if not in agreement.
- » Allow each person to share their viewpoint.

- » Take time-outs if conflict is escalating.
- » Identify several options before evaluating the pros and cons of each one.
- » Decide on an option, but agree to revisit the decision after a specific time to evaluate the decision.

Have learners complete and return evaluations to you. Enter results into PEARS (formerly K-PICS).

Lesson Activities

Activity 1: Dream Big, Plan Real

Distribute writing paper to participants. Instruct them to write down everything they can think of that they'd like to include in the activities leading up their wedding, the day of their wedding, and during their honeymoon, if they plan to take one. Give them no more than 5 to 7 minutes to complete this list.

When time is up, explain that they now need to identify the three to five most important items on their lists. Acknowledge that it will likely be a challenge to do this, but encourage them to try to identify only the most important three to five items.

Once they have identified their most important items, have participants write them on sticky notes, one item per note. Encourage participants to repeat this activity with their fiancé if both members of the couple are not at the workshop.

Activity 2: Money Doesn't Grow on Trees (How to pay for your wedding)

Using the three to five most important items identified during the Dream Big, Plan Real activity, ask participants to estimate how much each will cost. Ask participants to write the cost on the sticky notes.

Then, ask participants to share what their items are with the group. After each participant has shared at least one item, divide into pairs or small groups and discuss alternatives for managing the cost of these items.

The Tips for Managing Wedding Costs on page 3 of the fact sheet will be a good place to start. Encourage participants to be creative and to help each other identify alternatives. Wrap up the activity by pointing out that a similar process can be used to be creative in identifying alternatives for all aspects of the wedding.

Activity 3: You Can't Live on Love Alone – Once Upon a Time

Divide participants into groups of four to six. Each group will create a story about a couple who is planning for their financial future together. The first person in line begins the story by saying "Once upon a time . . ." and completes the sentence. The next person in line must continue the story and have it make sense. Each person must continue the story and is only allowed to say one sentence per turn. This process continues until each of the topics in the Take These Financial Vows section in the fact sheet have been mentioned. After each topic has been discussed, the next person in line must conclude the story in one sentence as well.

The topics are: outstanding debts, credit reports, aligning financial goals, sharing financial duties, and creating a household spending plan. (Activity adapted from: <http://www.group-games.com/stationary-games/team-story-game.html>)

Additional Activity and Resource

An additional activity is the Wedding Spending Game (MF3381) available in the K-State Research and Extension Bookstore. If you decide to use this activity, print enough game boards and assemble supplies for the groups of three to four participants.

An additional resource to share with participants is the Wedding Planning Guide (MF3380). This guide is also available in the K-State Research and Extension Bookstore.

Community Awareness Activities

- » Talk with friends and family members about what you learned from attending a program on wedding planning and the financial considerations of marriage.
- » Place copies of the fact sheet in your local library and places people might visit such as doctor's offices or hair salons.
- » Work with a local newspaper to sponsor one or more news articles on topics related to the content of the lesson.



Directions: Read each statement and rate your confidence after attending the workshop. Next, think back to before the workshop and rate your confidence at that time.

After taking the workshop, do you:	Not at all confident	Somewhat confident	Very confident
Feel you have an understanding of how to set goals to guide your financial decisions?			
Feel you have an understanding of best financial management practices?			
Before taking the workshop, did you:	Not at all confident	Somewhat confident	Very confident
Feel you have an understanding of how to set goals to guide your financial decisions?			
Feel you have an understanding of best financial management practices?			

Action Steps I plan to take as a result of completing this workshop *(check all that apply):*

- Create and use a wedding spending plan, adjusting it as needed to achieve our goals as a couple.
- Consider the costs and benefits of each wedding-related purchase.
- Consider how current purchases will affect us financially in the future
- Discuss outstanding debts, credit reports, aligning financial goals, sharing financial duties, and creating a household spending plan with my fiancé.

(fill in the blank with personal goal)

(fill in the blank with personal goal)

(fill in the blank with personal goal)

Thank you for completing this evaluation. We appreciate your feedback.

Please return this form to: _____

Thank you to the following professionals who reviewed this lesson:
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