



*Quail Lakes
Baptist Church
Wedding
Information
Packet*

Preparing for a Wedding at Quail Lakes Baptist Church

Congratulations on your engagement! We are excited for you and looking forward to working with you as you prepare for married life. At Quail Lakes Baptist Church, we believe that couples who keep Jesus Christ at the center of their relationship will experience their best marriage possible. Our desire is to help you prepare for marriage and assist you in planning a Christ-centered wedding ceremony that will reflect your faith and walk with Christ. We want your wedding to be wonderful and memorable.

Basic requirements for a wedding with one of the Quail Lakes pastors in the Quail Lakes Baptist Church facilities:

1. Bride and groom must individually confess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (II Corinthians 6:14).
2. Evidence of personal maturity on the part of both persons sufficient to sustain them through the normal periodic stresses of a marriage relationship.
3. Any previous broken marriage must be thought through and processed in light of Scripture (page 2 explains this further.)
4. The couple must be committed to the biblical standard of sexual purity, agreeing that it is God's plan to reserve the sexual relationship exclusively for marriage. If a couple has been sexually active, they will be expected to adapt a biblical lifestyle of sexual abstinence until marriage. If a couple is living together, we will need to discuss ways to resolve the appearance of compromise from a biblical lifestyle before proceeding further with pre-marriage sessions. For further explanation, recommended reading: *Moral Purity* by Charles Swindoll.
5. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman and Himself, Quail Lakes Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors and staff of Quail Lakes Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Quail Lakes Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.
6. A signed premarital contract is to be submitted.

You may request a certain Quail pastor to officiate at your wedding. The pastor will commit himself to do so only after agreement to, and signing of, the Premarital Contract. Church facilities reservations are considered tentative until the pastor has committed himself to officiate at your wedding. Most weddings on the Quail campus are in the Worship Center, but may take place in the Chapel or the outdoor courtyard. The Quail pastors would also be happy to officiate at your wedding at an off-campus location.

A guest officiating pastor may preside at the QLBC facilities if 1) a copy of Certificate of Ordination or Licensing to the ministry is submitted, 2) they are current and in good standing in their ministerial status, and 3) they are in agreement with the QLBC Statement of Faith. When a guest officiant is used, the couple must show they are receiving equivalent premarital counseling to that described in this document.

If There Has Been a Previous Marriage

The pastoral staff of Quail Lakes Baptist Church desires to reach out with sensitivity and compassion realizing that divorce is one of the most painful and devastating experiences in human relationships. Our goal is to help people use biblical principles to deal with what has happened and offer a biblical basis for the choices they are making. We wish to enable them to move into the future with a solid foundation, standing tall and straight before God and with a deeper inner peace, which can insulate from human stigmas and prejudice. Our experience has found the following guidelines helpful...

- As believers in Jesus Christ as Savior, we accept the Bible as our sole authority in faith and practice. Therefore, the dissolution of a previous marriage must be thought through in the light of Scripture passages on this issue to discern whether there is a biblical basis for entering into another marriage. (See Matthew 19:1-12; I Corinthians 7:10-15; II Corinthians 5:17)
- We consider persons to be still married until the divorce is final and therefore believe consideration of another marriage is inappropriate until the dissolution of the previous marriage is complete. We will not proceed with premarital counseling before a divorce is final. The pastor may ask to see the final divorce papers.
- Since the divorce rate for second marriages is higher than first marriages, it is all the more important that there be adequate time for healing from past hurts as well as a thorough appraisal of maturity in this new relationship. We therefore advise at least one year between the date a divorce is final and the date of a subsequent wedding.
- In an effort to obtain an objective perspective and understanding of the deterioration of the previous relationship, the pastor may ask permission to talk with a former marriage partner.
- Our modern culture is largely ignoring biblical moral standards. When a couple has not kept the biblical standard of sexual purity, we find that they always benefit from confession, forgiveness, and a decision to live a distinctly Christian lifestyle as they prepare for a Christian wedding. We will proceed with pre-marriage counseling only if a couple is committed to sexual abstinence before marriage. If a couple is living together, we will need to discuss ways to resolve this compromise of a biblical lifestyle before proceeding with premarital counseling.

Recommended reading on the subject of divorce and remarriage:

Divorce, by Charles Swindoll

Saving Your Second Marriage Before It Starts, by Les & Leslie Parrott

Moral Purity, Charles Swindoll

Premarital Counseling

What is the cost of the Quail Lakes Baptist Church premarital counseling program? The cost is \$100. This cost covers counseling materials and pays for the administration and scoring of the PREPARE report. Our premarital counselors are not paid, they have chosen premarital counseling as a special ministry opportunity.

Who does the premarital counseling? Your premarital counseling will be done with a married couple who has received special premarital counseling training. These couples exemplify Christ-centered marriages and they are open and honest about sharing their experiences in their own marriage.

Six sessions are required with your premarital counselors.

You will work with the same counselors for the full duration of your premarital counseling. Although these counselors are specifically trained in the area of premarital counseling, they are not professional, licensed counselors. They have chosen premarital counseling as their ministry at Quail.

What do we talk about at the counseling sessions? You will discuss many subjects throughout your time together. These subjects include marital roles and responsibilities; skills for communicating and resolving conflicts; realistic management of finances; your sexual relationship; your family of origin; and much more! Your relationship strengths will be discussed, as well as areas that need growth. Homework assignments may be given prior to each session to enhance your understanding, and promote discussion, of the material.

What should I expect from the premarital counseling experience? You should expect to be challenged, strengthened, educated, and better prepared for your upcoming marriage. You will probably experience some laughs, some tears, and some pleasant surprises! You should leave your premarital counseling with a more realistic expectation of what marriage will be like.

What if we don't complete the premarital counseling? Ordinarily the six premarital counseling take a minimum of three months to complete. When the couple does not complete the premarital counseling, it will constitute an obstacle for the performance of the wedding. Every effort will be taken to be flexible in this area. However, the material contained in the counseling must be substantially covered in each case.

May God richly bless you individually, and as a couple,
as you embark on this exciting journey together!

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,
and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one.
Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate."
Mark 10:7-9 (NIV)*

First Steps When Considering a Wedding

- Please contact the member of the church staff you wish to perform your wedding ceremony. It is preferred that you come with a range of possible dates in mind in order to ensure there is no scheduling conflict with the church facilities or the pastor.
- The use of our wedding hostess is required, except in some cases for small chapel weddings. The pastoral staff person will refer/connect you to a wedding hostess.
- Complete the premarital counseling contract the staff member will make available to you and submit it to the marrying pastor prior to scheduling the premarital counseling sessions.
- Pay careful attention to the procedural guidelines for facility use that the staff member and wedding hostess make available to you. These documents will advise you regarding the fee structure and other matters that deal with the use of the church facilities.
- With these guidelines in mind, it is hoped that the entire counseling and preparation time be an exciting and blessed event. Please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the church pastoral staff regarding further questions you may have or to schedule an appointment.

Procedure to Secure a Marriage License in San Joaquin County

1. The couple must both be at least 18 years of age. If one or both are not 18, an interview must be scheduled with the Juvenile Probation Department to get a court order to be married. This process usually takes two weeks.
2. Both partners must go to the office of the County Clerk (44 N. San Joaquin Suite 260, 468-2362) Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with the following:
 - a. Valid government issued picture identification (preferably driver's license). If you are divorced within the last twelve months, you must bring your final divorce documents. If you have been divorced over 12 months you must know the full date of your divorce.
 - b. \$65.00 for public marriage license fee, or \$73.00 for confidential marriage license (this means it will not be listed in the newspaper).
3. Please give your marriage license to the pastor at the wedding rehearsal.
4. Some couples may want/need a certified copy of their marriage license. To obtain one, send a \$15.00 check made out to "San Joaquin County Recorder" to San Joaquin County Recorder, P.O. Box 1968, Stockton, CA 95201-1968 with a note requesting a certified copy of your marriage license plus your name and address.

NOTE: The costs listed above are as of the time of printing of this packet and may be subject to change by San Joaquin County.

Wedding Costs
Quail Lakes Baptist Church
1904 Quail Lakes Drive, Stockton CA 95207
209/951-7380

1. Pre-Marriage Counseling materials

Includes: PREPARE assessment and books. (Make checks payable to Quail Lakes Baptist Church, due prior to taking the assessment)

\$100_____

2. Use of QLBC facilities

a. Non-participant:

1) Must first have permission from a QLBC pastor

2) Sanctuary rental (includes custodian)

\$675_____

Activity Center is not available for non-member receptions

There is no rental charge for QLBC regular participants for use of facilities for weddings or receptions; however, personnel costs will apply and are given below. Weddings are calendared only after being cleared through the church ministerial staff to avoid conflicts.

b. Activity Center Security/Cleaning Deposit:**(Please make separate check to QLBC.)

\$100_____

Approximate capacity for Reception:

- 500 standing or chairs only; 250 seated banquet style

c. Custodian's fee for weddings on Mon through Fri: (QLBC participants only, please make check payable to QLBC.)

Wedding (In Sanctuary)

\$150_____

Wedding (In Chapel)

\$100_____

Reception (In Activity Center)

\$200_____

3. Services (checks to be made payable to individuals)

a. Wedding Hostess' fee: (Role of hostess explained at first appointment)

Hostess may not be necessary for weddings in the Chapel.

Wedding only

\$100_____

Wedding & Reception

\$150_____

Reception only

\$75_____

b. Sound Technician's fee: Make check payable to sound technician.

Sound Technician may not be necessary for weddings in the Chapel.

Wedding hostess will contact John Welsh for the person's name prior to wedding. (fee includes both rehearsal & ceremony)

\$150_____

Sound technician at reception

\$75_____

Sound set up no technician

\$40_____

c. Custodian's fee for weddings on Sat or Sun: Fees are the same as in 2 above except fees are payable to the outside custodian. Wedding hostess will contact Rob Connor for the person's name prior to wedding.

The above fees are to be paid one month before the Wedding and given to your Wedding Hostess. (Sound Tech and Custodian checks are due one week prior to the wedding due to scheduling volunteers.)

4. Honorariums

a. Music: Honorariums/fees for soloists, organist, pianist and other instrumentalists are by mutual agreement between the bride and groom and the individual musician(s) and are paid directly to them.

b. Pastor: Suggested honorarium for officiating Pastor

\$150_____

Total Fees \$ _____

**Security/Cleaning deposit refundable when premises are left in the same condition found (custodian will mop floor) and all decorations and décor furnishings have been removed from the premises.

Example Order of a Wedding Ceremony

(Elements may vary)

Prelude

Processional

Welcome

Words to the Bride and Groom

Giving away the Bride

Scripture reading

Reflections on Christian marriage

(Special music)

Declaration of Intent

Vows/Rings

(Candle) (Special music)

Prayer of Blessing

Pronouncement

Recessional

Premarital Counseling Contract

With _____ and _____

Counseling is the most effective when there is openness, honesty and a commitment to learn and grow. Therefore, in order to make the most of the process, the following expectations are stated as a prerequisite for proceeding with the premarital counseling and also as a basis for the pastor's commitment to officiate at the wedding. After reading and signing this contract, it is to be handed to the marrying pastor **prior to** the initial premarital counseling session.

1. We accept the responsibility to keep the (six) counseling appointments and to come on time, or to call in advance if an unavoidable conflict arises. We also accept the responsibility to take the initiative to reschedule any missed sessions.
2. We agree to complete homework assignments, to bring our materials with us, and to come ready to discuss what we are learning from the content.
3. We agree to be honest in this process and to be open to learn from how we are perceived by each other and by our counselors.
4. We agree to refrain from sexual relations until our wedding night.
5. We agree to regularly attend Sunday worship during our pre-marriage process and beyond.
6. We understand these premarital counseling sessions are confidential but we give permission for our counselors to share helpful or pertinent information with the pastor who will officiate at our wedding.
7. Serious problems detected in the premarital counseling may render us unable to perform the ceremony. In no case will a definite word on our participation in a ceremony be given until the PREPARE assessment is taken and reviewed.

Prospective Groom

Date

Prospective Bride

Date

Pastor/Counselor's Agreement: I agree to strictly respect the confidentiality of any information shared with me from these premarital counseling sessions and I agree to officiate at the wedding on _____ of the two above named persons, pending their keeping of this contract.

Signed by Pastor

Date

Pastor's Wedding Information Form

Quail Lakes Baptist Church
1904 Quail Lakes Drive
(209) 951-7380

(Bring completed to first appointment)

	Bride	Groom
Name		
Street Address		
City, State, Zip		
Home Phone		
Cell Phone		
Work Phone		
Email		
Birthdate		
No. of previous Marriages		
Occupation		
Employer		
Church Membership		
Parent's Name		
Parent's Street Address		
Parents City, State, Zip		
Parent's Phone		

Bride & Groom's Address & Phone After Wedding (if known):

	Wedding	Reception	Rehearsal
Date:			
Hour:			
Place:			
Est. # Of Guests:			
Officiating Pastor(s):			