

## TIPS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL LEAD COUPLE

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1. Be personally secure: “I do have something to offer them that is important.”
2. Be sure your own convictions are clear before you present your material.
3. Allow freedom to the couples to discuss their ideas and understanding of marriage without fear of reprisal. Remember they are building their relationship.
4. Avoid a “know it all” attitude. This is usually indicative of insecurity with either the couples or the material.
5. Develop an active listening stance rather than a judgmental or authoritarian stance. You can be a role model for the engaged couple.
6. Accept pre-marriage work only if you can honestly say you care for the couples and have a genuine concern about their future together.
7. Make certain you are able to verbally express your care and concern for the couple.
8. It is important to have a good sense of humor. This relaxes the couples. Make certain the humor does not offend or cut deeply. Keep eye contact. If you don’t know what they are thinking or feeling, ask them.
9. Do not become “preachy.” Instead of lecturing, dialogue with the couples. Validate their insights and wisdom as much as you can. Remember they have lived some life too. However, don’t be afraid to challenge them.
10. The marriage preparation sessions are not a time for the lead couple to “unload their problems.” If you are having some serious marital problems or family stress, withdraw from the program for a while.