

Transcript of Recruitment Video for Marriage Education Programs

Narrator: *Love, it's that universal human longing for connection. The need to share one's hopes, dreams, joys and sorrows with someone who will always be there for us. It's what makes the world go round. Most people dream of getting married and hope for a stable, happy marriage. Still, another truth is that healthy marriages and relationships take hard work. And when kids come along, it becomes even more important to make sure the foundation is healthy and strong. Children, whose parents are married and get along well usually have the best chance at growing up safe and secure, and of becoming productive, happy adults. When parents have a good marriage, it gives the kids advantages in life, and of course the parents are happier too.* [Background during narration: a couple and child playing in a grassy field; little girl playing; father and child together; father playing on floor with child; mother reading to child; father carrying child on his back; adult teaching child to walk.]

[Shot of child sitting on couch singing]

[Slide on screen: "Jamie, Baton Rouge, LA"]

Jamie: We was a wreck before the program, we would fuss and the arguments was just outrageous ... It was terrible, and I really found ourselves breaking up. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Jamie speaking.]

[Slide on screen: "Dominique, Baton Rouge, LA"]

Dominique: So I said to myself, man I want to be a better man, I got to do something so I got in that program; it showed me a lot.... [On screen during monologue: headshot of Dominique speaking.]

Narrator: *Most people want a stable loving relationship but don't always know what it takes to make and keep it. All across the country, programs are starting to help couples learn how to build a strong, healthy marriage.* [Background during narration: Jamie and Dominique leaving house with an infant and a toddler; couples at the group meeting; female group member signing in; couples greeting each other.]

Jamie, to toddler: Be good, play and have fun.

Toddler: Are you gonna be in your classroom, mama?

[On screen during dialogue: Jamie leaving toddler in child care room]

Narrator: *Here's the story of one such couple.*

Jamie: Like I said, I was kinda skeptical about it at first ...but I wanted to give it a try. And you know, the people who started it gave us some information, so I said well, I'll take it home and let him think about it And he, we decided to join and it was gorgeous, I loved it. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Jaime speaking; Jaime speaking while sitting on couch with Dominique holding infant.]

Male Group Facilitator: Glad to see everybody out here tonight.

Female Group Facilitator: Good to see everybody.

[On screen during dialogue: Male and female group facilitators greeting group.]

Narrator: *Whether they're engaged, married or dating, whether they're in great relationships or thinking about breaking up, whether they have a lot of money or very little, couples can learn how to protect and strengthen their bonds, and learn how to build and sustain healthy and strong marriages. These programs can help couples talk to each other more effectively, discuss problems without getting out of control, deepen their intimacy and friendship, and support each other in stressful times.* [Background during narration: couple working together on written class exercise and talking; second couple discussing issue with group; third couple working together on a written class exercise; fourth couple working together on a written class exercise and talking; Jaime and Dominique talking through a class exercise.]

Female participant (from fifth couple): “I know, exercise and fitness!” [On screen during monologue: fifth couple, working on class exercise and laughing.]

Male participant (from sixth couple): “and for you, planning vacations, carrying on conversations, getting together with friends, saving money...you're good at that!” [On screen during monologue: sixth couple, working on class exercise and laughing.]

Narrator: *In these programs, couples usually meet with other couples in small groups and a professional facilitator. They learn from their own experiences, the lives of other couples, and from information shared by facilitators. The goal is to learn specific skills they can practice together as a couple, so they can be effective as couples and as parents.* [Background during narration: couples talking around table; couples paired off in large room discussing class exercise; facilitator guiding group; seventh couple discussing issue with group; female in seventh couple looking at male in eighth couple; facilitator guiding group while male in eighth couple touches knee of female in eighth couple; second couple working together on class exercise; eighth couple working together on class exercise.]

Male participant (from seventh couple), reading a card: You want me to ask you about your day.

Female participant (from seventh couple): I feel really mad that you're not asking about my day.

[On screen during dialogue: seventh couple working together on class exercise.]

Narrator: *Of course, all couples experience some conflict, even those that are happily married. But research tells us that it doesn't matter how much you argue, but how you argue that is important. So programs show couples how to manage conflicts in ways that solve the problem but don't damage the relationship.* [Background during narration: ninth couple discussing issue with group; eighth couple discussing issue with group]

Female participant (from tenth couple): I'm not a wordsy person, and I'm used to conflict that's physical... [On screen during monologue: female participant from tenth couple sitting next to male from tenth couple, discussing issue with group.]

Narrator: *Participants learn how their own experiences have shaped the way they deal with conflict, and they learn skills for preventing fights that are harmful. Participants sometimes learn things about themselves and each other that they didn't know before...* [Background during narration: tenth couple discussing issue with group.]

Male participant (from tenth couple): Everything that happened in my family was verbal, you know, ay, yi, yi, yi, yi ay, yi, yi... [On screen during monologue: male participant from tenth couple discussing issue with group.]

Narrator: *...taking them to a deeper level of mutual understanding and support.* [Background during narration: tenth couple discussing issue with group, and laughing.]

Dominique: You get to hear, you know, what different people's been through, you know, what's really going on in the world, and then you take a look back, and you be like, man, this is why things is going this way... [On screen during monologue: headshot of Dominique speaking.]

Jamie: Some things I never knew about him, I found out in that class. A lot of stuff. Probably stuff I would have spent my whole life never knowing. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Jaime speaking.]

Dominique: The program has really inspired me to open up, you know, I got to listen to different people's stories, you know, and it's like, man I'm not the only one going through these rough times. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Dominique speaking.]

Male Facilitator: Has there ever been any stress in between you guys, do you ever get stressed out with each other?

Group members (off screen): Yeah; Laughing.

Dominique (in group): The biggest part about stress is knowing when you're stressing. You know, because a lot of times, you could be stressing and you not know it. [On screen during dialogue: male and female facilitator leading group; Dominique speaking to group.]

Jamie: And you see other couples going through what they went through before your class, you know, that would kinda loosen you up, so you go, oh they went through that, so hey it can't be that bad, they went through this too. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Dominique speaking.]

Narrator: *Most couples, even married couples, go through difficult times and some are tempted to blame each other or bail out when the going gets rough. Not realizing that relationship skills could help them, some couples might not get married, and some*

married couples wind up divorcing. [Background during narration: eleventh couple talking in kitchen; Dominique participating in class; male from fifth couple participating in class; group facilitators guiding class.]

Female Facilitator: You have to remember that this is a stressful time, everyone goes through it, but as with most things in life, this too shall pass... because at some point the baby is gonna sleep all night, and at some point you will be able to get your life kinda back on a normal course, and be able to get together and carve out that time that's important, that "you time," that 20 minutes a day where you guys can just sit there face to face. So those times come, and the key is don't think that because you're going through a stressful time that hey, the relationship is bad. [On screen during monologue: female and male facilitators guiding class.]

Dominique: "It's like, man, I'm not the only one going through these rough times." [On screen during monologue: headshot of Dominique speaking.]

Female Facilitator: I hoped this exercise helped you guys.

Male Facilitator: Did it help?

Group members (off screen): Uh-huh.

Male Facilitator: Good, good, good.

[On screen during dialogue: roving shot of male and female facilitators guiding group and sixth couple participating in group.]

Narrator: *Learning how to positively handle stress is one of those important skills for couples as they go through big changes like the birth of a child or dealing with a family illness. Couples can learn the skills to strengthen their relationship and to begin or strengthen a healthy marriage.* [Background during narration: roving shot of group session, ending in clapping; roving shot of another group session.]

[Shot of female participants getting food at center.]

Male facilitator: ...sounds like that was a hard situation to deal with, but you got it straight.

Male participant (from fourth couple): Yeah, for two days in a row I done had to do that.

Male Facilitator: Wow.

[On screen during dialogue: male facilitator, male participant from fourth couple, and another male participant, discussing issue in hallway.]

[Shot of Jaime and Dominique saying farewell, with toddler and infant in tow.]

Jamie: The program, it kinda, well, the group that was there, they really became like our brothers and sisters. I mean we really, we still conversate with the people that was in the class with us, they were like real friends. I asked them if there was gonna be a continuation of this, you know can we do this a little more, you know? Because it was fun. We also not only, it was not only to sit in a class--which some people may think is dull, you know just sit there and spill your business--it's not like that. [On screen during

monologue: headshot of Jaime speaking; Jaime and Dominique saying farewell, with toddler and infant in tow; return to headshot of Jaime speaking.]

Dominique: The guys and I have been working together, you know, we've been strong. The unity its been real, it's like one big family, you know, one big, happy family. [On screen during monologue: Male participants saying farewell; headshot of Dominique speaking.]

Narrator: *Although there's no such thing as a perfect relationship or marriage, couples can do a lot to make sure they stay connected and face life's struggles together. Programs like these can help them on this path. Married couples can strengthen their relationship. Couples who are not married can also strengthen their relationship which means a stronger foundation for their future together and their marriage, if they decide to wed.* [Background during narration: male participants saying farewell; Dominique returning to child care to retrieve infant.]

Dominique: You know we trying to start a whole better beginning, we got kids, we're trying to build a strong family. So it's wonderful. It gave us a chance to meet some new positive people, get all that negative stuff out of my life. I have some positive people in my life now that I can look forward to. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Dominique speaking; Dominique and Jaime retrieving infant from child care; return to headshot of Dominique speaking.]

[Shot of Dominique and Jamie with baby after group meeting is over, speaking with child care provider.]

Dominique: I mean the program will inspire you to really go further, you go above and beyond, you learn things you never would have thought, things you can't even dream of....you know, things that people go through will help you better evaluate your situation. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Dominique speaking.]

Jamie: You'd be surprised where it will put your engagement, where it will put you at in life ... even if the marriage is not, is a while off, it will set you all's minds at a point like you all really, really know each other, you know, so that you could never harm each other I would never put my hands back on Dominique again... I know so much about him through that class, I cherish everything about him. [On screen during monologue: headshot of Jaime speaking.]

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