

FORMAT FOR A BEGINNING EXPERIENCE® "ROAD SHOW"

1. Introductions- Have team members introduce themselves - Where from, divorced or widowed how long, family and job information
2. HISTORY
 - a. Founded in Fort Worth, Texas in 1974.
 - b. The genesis was from a Marriage Encounter weekend attended by Sr. Josephine Stewart and Jo Lamia, a friend of Josephine's who was divorced.
 - c. International organization with over 100 teams in 9 countries and on 3 continents
 - d. The program is federally copyrighted; the trademarks are federally registered
 - e. The local Beginning Experience team began in (year)
 - f. (Local team Name) - # men and women - weekend dates
3. What is the Beginning Experience ministry
 - a. This is a peer ministry for those who are separated, divorced, widowed; presented by others who have been there
 - b. Catholic (or Episcopal) affiliation, Christian program, open to all faiths
 - c. Psychology of the weekend
 - i. Grief occurs with any loss - expand on idea.
 - ii. Ways we avoid dealing with grief - too busy, workaholic, getting involved in new relationship too soon
 - iii. Stages of grief: denial, bargaining, anger, depression, and acceptance- apply stages to your personal story.
 - d. Theology of the weekend
 - i. It is a spiritual, Christian weekend
 - ii. Death and resurrection theology - see *Manual for the Beginning Experience* for more on this.
 - iii. Relate your personal, spiritual growth
4. How to know if the Weekend is right for you.
WHO? widowed, divorced, separated of any faith.
WHEN? Recommend time frame:
6 months after initial loss for divorced; 12 months for widowed
This is rule of thumb; look for emotional, not calendar time
Can be very beneficial even after years—can be stuck in grief process for a long time
WILLINGNESS TO:
 1. focus on self during entire weekend and put aside other distractions
 2. work - you get out of it what you put into it
 3. in 48 hours, can effect profound changeIT IS NOT: a social weekend, a vacation, a place to meet prospective dates
LOGISTICS
How to apply, when, where
Casual clothes
Can be physically tiring
COST - \$ _____
If money is a problem, talk to us.

DO NOT TALK ABOUT CLOSURE LETTER, GUILT, OR RECONCILIATION.