

# Journey through TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE PREP

vs.



**INFORMATION-DRIVEN** — Couples go to a **conference** or a **retreat** where they are given **information** about the Sacrament of Marriage through a series of **intellectual talks** delivered by someone they usually do not know.



**MENTORSHIP** — Through a **mentorship model**, couples preparing for marriage **choose** a mentor couple to grow in **relationship** with who attends Mass regularly and is active in their parish. Couples meet with their mentor couple monthly to **read and discuss the Sacrament of Marriage, friendship, and virtue** using the *Witness to Love* workbook and videos.

**ASSIGNED MENTOR COUPLE** — Couples are **assigned** a **mentor couple**. The vast majority of these assigned relationships do not blossom into authentic friendships. As a result, these couples part paths after the wedding day, and the newly wedded couple is not shown what it means to live out a virtuous, holy marriage when they need it the most.



**RELATIONSHIP** — Trusting, authentic, and chosen **relationships deepen** with the chosen mentor couple. The couples often go out on **double dates** and **attend Mass together**. *Through relationship*, the mentor couple models what it means to live a virtuous, holy marriage.



**LACK OF PARISH INVOLVEMENT** — Since the vast majority of couples do not grow in their trust of the Church or their assigned mentors, they often **do not increase their Church involvement**. In fact, statistics show that the majority of newly wedded couples do not attend Mass regularly.



**INCREASED PARISH INVOLVEMENT** — Because a trusting relationship deepens, the couple **openly receives invitations** from the mentor couple to be **involved in the Church parish** by attending Mass or joining small groups. The couple is naturally integrated into parish life pre- and post- wedding day.

**LACK OF SUPPORT** — Without someone to turn to, couples **do not have support and marriage enrichment** throughout their marriage. Couples who do reach out for help often do so after they are separated.



**CONTINUED SUPPORT** — As a result of having a trusting relationship with their chosen mentor couple, **couples have the support and marriage enrichment** needed early on and throughout the journey of marriage.



**23%**

Divorce Rate for Catholic Couples 5-Year Mark

vs.

**25%**

Divorce Rate for General Population 5-Year Mark

## Results

Traditional marriage preparation is not significantly impacting the divorce rate.

**5.8%**

Divorce Rate *Witness to Love* Couples 5-Year Mark

**70-90%**

Increase in church attendance among *Witness to Love* newlyweds.

## Results

*Witness to Love* marriage preparation lowers the chances of divorce and increases the chances of parish involvement.

*Witness to Love* renews the parish through relationship.