



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is relengage?

Relengage is a 16-week marriage enrichment program. Marriages in any condition can benefit, whether a couple is struggling to get along, their marriage is broken, or they are doing well but simply want to grow closer together. Relengage examines God's design for marriage and applies principles from the Bible to guide couples towards growth in their relationship with each other.

Couples can expect to:

- receive encouragement by hearing stories from others who have experienced victory in the midst of hard times;
- receive biblical teaching on a particular topic relevant to marriage; and
- be placed in a small group with a facilitator couple and 4-6 other couples to work through a 14-lesson curriculum (book).

### What is the origin of relengage?

The program was launched at Watermark Community Church in Dallas, TX in September 2008 and has since expanded to other churches worldwide. We have been blessed to offer it at First Christian Church, Greeneville since 2018.

### When and where does relengage meet?

We meet on Monday nights from 6:30—8:30p at the Greeneville Campus of First Christian Church (1130 Temple Street).

### Do we have to attend First Christian Church in order to attend?

No! Relengage is open to the community. Our desire is to minister to marriages within Greene County and beyond, regardless of if couples attend FCC, another church, or no church at all.

### When is relengage offered?

Relengage is offered twice a year. It is available in the fall (*Aug—Nov*) and in the spring (*Jan—April*). Go to [fccgreene.org/marriage](http://fccgreene.org/marriage) for specific dates.

### What does a typical relengage night look like?

Relengage meets once a week for approximately two hours:

- 6:30—6:50p: Worship
  - We begin with about 20 minutes of worship in order to focus our thoughts after a Monday of work, kids, stress, etc. This is a deliberate and intentionally important time to decompress from our day and to prepare us for the rest of the evening. We will worship with a combined group that is here for two programs: *re:generation* and relengage.
- 6:50—7:20p: Large Group
  - After a combined worship time, we will separate from *re:generation* into our relengage Large Group. During the Large Group time, we will receive encouragement by hearing testimonies from other couples who have experienced victory in the midst of difficulty or by having a teaching on a particular topic relevant to marriage.

- 7:20—8:30p: Small Group
  - Weeks 1 & 2: Open Groups—These two Open Groups allow couples to decide if this is a program to which they are willing to commit. They will feature a couple testimony, followed by discussion.
  - Weeks 3—16: Closed Small Groups start after the second week of Open Group. Each Closed Small Group consists of 4-6 couples and a facilitator couple who will walk through the 14-lesson relengage curriculum (book) together. Once formed, no new couples are added to that group.
  - Week 16: Celebration Night (a chance to celebrate with a special dinner and share stories of how God has brought about change and growth in each couple)

### **Does relengage work?**

Thousands of couples have benefited greatly from relengage. Real change, however, requires more than just applying a few tips for a quick fix. For those who fall into the category of needing complete resurrection in their marriage, healing will not occur overnight. For those who simply want to improve their marriages, growth and change will occur over time, as well. No matter how long you have been married, there will always be some level of struggle this side of eternity. But through our relationship with Christ, and in learning the principles He gave us in Scripture within the context of godly community, we can find true freedom in our individual lives and therefore in our marriages. The focus of relengage is on heart transformation, individually and as a couple, which we believe will lead to greater oneness in marriage.

### **Is there any cost for relengage?**

There is a cost of \$15 for the book, which you will receive at the end of the second night of Open Group. Each person needs their own book (two per couple/\$30 per couple).

### **What is the book like?**

The book has 14 short chapters. The first half deals primarily with character/heart issues, and the last half focuses on practical steps to improve your marriage. There are 5-6 questions interspersed throughout each chapter. Each person will answer the questions individually on their own and then discuss their answers with their spouse during the week.

### **Will I be asked a lot of personal questions at relengage?**

Personal sharing is not required during the large group testimony and teaching time, or during the first two weeks of Open Group. Beginning in week 3, however, we encourage you to be an active participant as the group discusses the chapter, but any personal sharing is voluntary. We have found that relengage works best in a small group because encouragement and accountability come from knowing that other couples are working through the same truths and are having the same conversations. Therefore, greater growth, for you and the others in your small group, occurs when you choose to share.

### **How do I know that what I share at relengage will be kept confidential? Will it be a safe place to share?**

The Bible calls us to refrain from gossip and so we ask all participants to ensure that what is discussed in the small group stays in the small group. Relengage facilitators operate under the direction of God's Word in handling the information shared in the group. In order to provide a safe environment, facilitators have committed to not share details of information discussed in the group except with relengage leadership as needed for guidance and equipping or to prevent physical, emotional, or spiritual injury.

**Can I be honest with people about what is going on in our marriage?**

Our prayer is that you will feel safe to share within your small group. We find that the more authentic and transparent couples can be with others, the more they find hope and healing within their marriage.

**Is relengage marriage counseling?**

Relengage is not marriage counseling and the leaders are facilitators, not counselors. They are also growing in their own marriages. Everyone in the group is on the journey toward oneness in marriage. We believe that openness and honesty in a small group setting, using Biblically-based curriculum, is where God works to grow and resurrect marriages.

**Do you provide child care?**

We offer more than child care! Our KidsMin Department offers a wonderful program for kids, birth through 5th grade, at no cost. Please indicate the number and ages of your children at the time of registration.

**Can I just come and visit or do I have to commit to something?**

During the first two nights of Open Group, there is no commitment required. These nights are a great place for you to hear more about the heart and history behind relengage and give you a chance to ask any questions that you might have before making a commitment for the following 14 weeks. You will also benefit from the large group worship, teaching, and a couple testimony.

**What commitment do I have to make?**

Once you join a closed group (week 3), working through the relengage curriculum will require a 14-week commitment. This is the time in which the Closed Small Group is working through the curriculum together. Consistent attendance on Monday nights and completion of homework during the week is expected and important to the success of the program.

**How much time each week outside of the meeting is required to be part of relengage?**

Completion of the curriculum and conversation with your spouse will take approximately one hour each week. The time required will vary for each couple, but it is designed for minimal time commitment.

**I don't know if I'll have a marriage by the end of the month. Is relengage a good place for us?**

Absolutely! There are many couples who have attended, or are attending, who are separated or divorced. While the outcome is based on the work each individual is willing to do to save their marriage, the platform provides a safe place to focus on what a healthy marriage should look like, and it provides some tools to help grow toward this goal.

**We don't like spending time with each other anymore. Will we have to interact together?**

Since you will be in a small group together, each of you will be sharing about what you learn personally each week. There are also some exercises that require you to interact with each other during the week.

**I have no hope anymore. Is this a place where we can find hope?**

Our prayer is that you will find hope that can come through allowing God to do a mighty work within your marriage. We firmly believe that submission to the Holy Spirit and His Word, within the context of Christian community, will bring healing to your marriage.

**My marriage is doing well. Can we benefit by attending relengage?**

Absolutely! Whether your marriage is doing well, needs to be reignited, or is in need of a complete resurrection, relengage is a safe place for couples to reconnect and grow in their oneness with each other.

**Should we attend *re:generation* first before coming to relengage?**

The answer to this question varies from couple to couple. Please contact Mark and Beth Anne Liebert, Marriage Team Directors, at [bethanne@fccgreene.org](mailto:bethanne@fccgreene.org), for help in answering this question. They will be happy to sit down with you, hear your story, and help you decide what your best next step is.

**We have only been married for six months. Can we still come?**

Yes! In fact, participating in relengage at this stage in your marriage is a great idea! The program will provide a strong start to your marriage. For members and regular attenders of First Christian Church, however, we also offer Foundations, a 15-month mentoring program for newly-married couples. Visit [fccgreene.org/marriage](http://fccgreene.org/marriage) if you are interested.

**We are thinking about getting married (or are engaged). Is this ministry for us?**

We suggest you focus on marriage preparation through an 8-week pre-marital class we call Merge. If you would like more information on Merge, visit [fccgreene.org/marriage](http://fccgreene.org/marriage).

**For further questions regarding relengage, Foundations, or Merge,** please visit [fccgreene.org/marriage](http://fccgreene.org/marriage) or contact Mark and Beth Anne Liebert, Marriage Team Directors, at [bethanne@fccgreene.org](mailto:bethanne@fccgreene.org).