So You Want to Do a Love Dare Event in Your Church … Here’s How

Fireproof, one of the most talked-about movies in recent years, and The Love Dare have attracted worldwide attention and are still changing lives. So, generating excitement about a church campaign should not be difficult! Stories are added daily to the community link at http://bhpublishinggroup.com/lovedare. Faithfully pray that God will guide in impacting your community for Him and for stronger marriages.

Here are some scenarios to help your event coordinator.

To conduct a Fireproof movie event:

- Order/overview The Love Dare Bible Study Leader Kit.
- Preview the movie using the DVD in the kit, and look for ways to impact couples in your community. Consider partnering with another church as one example.
- Set a date for your Fireproof movie event.
- Develop a budget that reflects your dreams, goals, and plans.
- Reserve the event location.
- Request a large-group movie site license based on the number of people you hope to reach (for example, 750 people).
- Create teams for getting the work done. Possibilities include:
  - Publicity (include local media)
  - Tickets/pre-registration (find out about the people who come)
  - Childcare
  - Music/decorations/refreshments
    - (Do you want to serve wedding cake and punch after the movie and decorate the room like a wedding reception? Be creative and intentional involve others in this significant event!)
  - Parking (Good greeters make good first impressions!)
  - Special guests (for example, firefighters, special speaker, marriage expert)
  - Gifts for attendees (for example, give each person a Dare to Love Booklet)
  - Other

- Follow up on the people who attend. Highlight other opportunities your church offers to strengthen marriages.
To conduct a campaign that includes the Fireproof movie as a launch for small groups:

- Use *The Love Dare Bible Study Leader Kit* and CD articles “Frequently Asked Questions” and “Maximizing the Love Dare: Church Campaign and Timeline.” (Other articles referred to in “Church Campaign and Timeline” are on the Leader Kit CD-ROM.) Be sure to include some type of concluding celebration event.

- Give the kit to the small-group facilitator for his/her preparation.

- Request a site license for the number expected to attend the Fireproof launch event.

- Determine a schedule for the group/multiple groups, including a fast-track plan.

- Order *Love Dare Bible Study* member books and *Love Dare* journals for each person expected for the Bible study group (for example, 100 adults = 100 books and 100 journals).
  Note: *El Desafío del Amor* (005187885) will be available fall 2009 for Spanish Bible study groups.

- Help couples transform their marriages as they see the Love Dare every day (perpetual calendar) or take the Love Dare with them (40-day card set). These items, along with *The Love Dare* journal (simulated leather), are gift ideas for a leader, your pastor, or a special guest.

- Other actions:
To offer only the small-group Bible study:

- Use *The Love Dare Bible Study Leader Kit* and CD articles “Frequently Asked Questions” and “Maximizing the Love Dare: Church Campaign and Timeline.” (Other articles referred to in “Church Campaign and Timeline” are on the Leader Kit CD-ROM.) Consider whether a concluding celebration event might be needed.

- Order a copy of *The Love Dare Bible Study Leader Kit* for the group facilitator.

- Especially highlight in the kit the preparation articles on the CD-ROM and the Teaching Clips DVD that includes movie clips for each session.

- Order copies of *The Love Dare Bible Study* member book and *The Love Dare* journal for each person expected (for example, 100 adults = 100 books and 100 journal
Note: *El Desafío del Amor* (005187885) will be available fall 2009 for Spanish Bible study groups.

- Help couples transform their marriages as they see the Love Dare every day (perpetual calendar) or take the Love Dare with them (40-day card set). These items, along with *The Love Dare* journal (simulated leather), are gift ideas for a leader, your pastor, or a special guest.

- Other actions:
Maximizing The Love Dare: A Church Campaign and Timeline

The best way to realize the maximum benefit of The Love Dare Bible Study is by using it as the starting point for a churchwide campaign. These step-by-step helps will guide you to coordinate a campaign, ensuring that nothing falls between the cracks. You may want to add key dates and individuals/groups who are responsible for appropriate actions.

**9-10 WEEKS PRIOR TO CAMPAIGN**

- Begin praying for the campaign.
- Hold a campaign vision briefing for church leaders and other influencers.
- Announce dates of your campaign to your church.
- Choose your small-group strategy. Will you have one group or several?
- Who will lead your group(s)? How will you populate them?

**7-8 WEEKS PRIOR TO CAMPAIGN**

- Enlist small-group leaders.
- Order copies of the resources your group will use: The Love Dare Bible Study member book (item 005186345) and The Love Dare journals (item 005180605).
- The coordinator of a study can benefit from a leader kit (item 005179026).
- Develop a campaign promotion strategy. Remember, a good promotion strategy includes multiple methods of communication.
- Drama team: Begin preparing for the campaign.

**5-6 WEEKS PRIOR TO CAMPAIGN**

- Begin promoting the campaign in your church and/or community.
- Develop a plan for marriage-vow renewal event including determining a time, securing a place, involving folk in decorations and refreshments, and taking other needed actions.
**3-4 WEEKS PRIOR TO CAMPAIGN**

- Using multiple methods, continue promoting campaign.
- Schedule a time to train small-group leaders.

**1-2 WEEKS PRIOR TO CAMPAIGN**

- Connect members to their Love Dare small groups.
- Announce session 1, “Leading Your Heart.”

**LAUNCH DATE:**

**WEEK 1**

- Deliver the sermon message, “A Battle for Your Heart and Mind.”
- Small groups experience session 1 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“Leading Your Heart”).
- Announce session 2, “The Power of Influence.”

**WEEK 2**

- Deliver the message, “The Temptation Trap.”
- Small groups participate in session 2 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“The Power of Influence”).
- Announce session 3, “Honoring and Cherishing Your Spouse.”

**WEEK 3**

- Deliver the message, “Fireproof Your Choices.”
- Small groups experience session 3 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“Honoring and Cherishing Your Spouse”).
- Announce session 4, “Living with Understanding.”

**WEEK 4**

- Deliver the message, “A Vision of a Fireproof Marriage.”
- Small groups participate in session 4 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“Living with Understanding”).
- Announce session 5, “Unconditional Love.”
WEEK 5
- Deliver the message, “The Money Dare.”
- Small groups experience session 5 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“Unconditional Love”).
- Announce session 6, “Walking in Forgiveness.”
- Finalize plans for celebration event.

WEEK 6
- Deliver the message, “Fireproof During Conflict and Crisis.”
- Small groups participate in session 6 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“Walking in Forgiveness”).
- Announce session 7, “Building Marriage on Prayer and God’s Word.”
- Begin promoting celebration event.

WEEK 7
- Deliver the message, “Fireproof in Prayer.”
- Small groups experience session 7 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“Building Marriage on Prayer and God’s Word”).
- Announce session 8, “Establishing a Covenant Marriage.”
- Finalize logistics and continue promoting celebration event.

WEEK 8
- Deliver the message, “Leading with Your Heart.”
- Small groups participate in session 8 of *The Love Dare Bible Study* (“Establishing a Covenant Marriage”). Continue with a celebration/closure event.
A Fast-Track Plan for Your Love Dare Experience

For many churches, an eight-week group study seems daunting. As a pastor, I know how hard it can be to motivate and recruit couples even if the study is outstanding.

Here is a three-week plan for your Love Dare group study. Feel free to adapt the material to fit your schedule. It would include a final weekend study that could be done as a conference at the church or, better still, as a retreat at a conference center or hotel. Sometime getaways can be even more effective and memorable!

The following schedule suggests having group sessions on Thursday evenings but they could be held any night of the week depending on the culture of your church activities.

We'll be praying for revival in your church and in marriages!

—Stephen Kendrick and Michael Catt, Sherwood Baptist Church

One week before the group study:
Distribute The Love Dare journals and ask couples to read days 1-7.

Week 1

Sunday:
The Love Dare, Day 8;
Sunday p.m.
Kickoff:
Session 1, "Leading Your Heart," The Love Dare Bible Study

Monday:
The Love Dare, Day 9
Tuesday:
The Love Dare, Day 10
Wednesday:
The Love Dare, Day 11
Thursday:
The Love Dare, Day 12;
Session 2, "The Power of Influence,"
The Love Dare Bible Study
Friday:
The Love Dare, Day 13
Saturday:
The Love Dare, Day 14
Week 2
Sunday: The Love Dare, Day 15
Monday: The Love Dare, Day 16
Tuesday: The Love Dare, Day 17
Wednesday: The Love Dare, Day 18
Thursday: The Love Dare, Day 19;
   Session 3, “Honoring and Cherishing Your Spouse,” The Love Dare Bible Study
Friday: The Love Dare, Day 20
Saturday: The Love Dare, Day 21

Week 3
Sunday: The Love Dare, Day 22
Monday: The Love Dare, Day 23
Tuesday: The Love Dare, Day 24
Wednesday: The Love Dare, Day 25
Thursday: The Love Dare, Day 26;
   Session 4, “Living with Understanding,”
   The Love Dare Bible Study

Love Dare Weekend Conference
Friday Evening
   Couples read The Love Dare, Day 27
   6:00 p.m. Love Dare Banquet
   7:00 p.m. Session 5, “Unconditional Love,” The Love Dare Bible Study
   8:00 p.m. Session 6, “Walking in Forgiveness,” The Love Dare Bible Study

Saturday Morning
   Couples read The Love Dare, Day 28
   10:00 a.m. Session 7, “Building Marriage on Prayer and God’s Word,”
   The Love Dare Bible Study
   Lunch
   12:30 p.m. Session 8, “Establishing a Covenant Marriage,”
   The Love Dare Bible Study

Sunday
   Renewal of Vows Ceremony
   Couples continue daily reading of The Love Dare!

For additional coordination and support, see the sermon series on this CD-ROM.
Frequently Asked Questions

Is The Love Dare Bible Study only for people who didn’t see Fireproof?
Absolutely not. Most of us experience a movie as a simple cathartic experience and the impact fades before we can unpack all that we’ve seen. Those who have seen the movie know that each scene has a purpose. Those themes deserve to be unpacked. The Love Dare group experience will help the couples in your church do just that!

Do we have to pay royalties for the use of the film content?
No, but a license is required to show Fireproof in a large-group setting. These details and contact information are given in the flyer Fireproof Move Event Information in this kit.
Movie segments on the teaching clips DVD are separated for you and so can be easily shown to a group. No license is needed to use the teaching clips DVD in your small group.

Should this group experience be done in a home or at the church building?
Either way works! For churches that have moved to a small-group format meeting in homes, you’ll find this to be an excellent marriage enrichment solution. All you really need is access to a TV/DVD system.

Should groups be separated by age?
Depending on whether you choose to use existing groups to do this study or to develop new groups meeting at non-standard times, you might choose to what is best for the busy couples in your church. One of the growing movements in marriage enrichment is marriage mentoring.

Some advantages can be identified for having couples of various ages in the same group. One is to potentially increase the spiritual closeness of your congregation.

If you are using this experience to reach people who are not members of your church, the advantage of having couples in the same age range are strong. Couples feel more comfortable around other couples who are facing the same life-stage challenges.

As a leader, how do I effectively guide group discussion?
Here are a few tips that may help, especially if you run into dysfunction:
1. Express the expectations of how discussion should go before the group begins.
2. Don’t allow people to have discussions while someone else is trying to share.
3. Remind group members that no one person should dominate the discussion.
4. Beware of excessive emotionality. Provide support, Kleenex™, and prayer but keep the group on track. You might want to be prepared to encourage certain group members to add expertise or counseling support to this experience. Doing so will give group
members an opportunity to unpack some deep-seated feelings with a safety net. Some churches may be able to provide a counseling number for referral needs that surface.

5. Be aware that some people try to provide instant solutions to problems (a lot like Job’s friends). Ask them to avoid trying to fix anyone else in the group.

6. “No Kids Allowed.” The Love Dare group experience should not be attended by children, for obvious reasons.

7. Keep to the plan. Many hours of thought, prayer, and planning have gone into the development of this experience. Trust the process. It works if you will work it!

**As a leader, what if my own marriage has been less-than-ideal?**

From the start of this study, we acknowledge that we are all on this journey toward covenant marriage. No matter the condition of your marriage, we believe that this discussion-approach will help you feel comfortable facilitating this group.

But it’s important to be sure that your mate is as committed to this project as you are. An “ideal” marriage assumes that life is ideal; it is not. We live in a fallen world and we all are choosing to either grow or remain stagnant. By facilitating this group, you are saying to other couples that you, too, hope to experience the benefits of the Love Dare group experience.

However, if you pray about it and sense that your role is not facilitation but participation, don’t attempt to move forward as a leader. Pray for God to raise up another facilitator in your church.

**Is this experience truly an all-church opportunity?**

It certainly can be; see some of the possibilities that follow.

You may want to offer a True Love Waits study for students or a couple of “all family member” events. It is an encouragement to the entire family when Mom and Dad are working to make their marriage better.

**Options for children’s studies:**
Check [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com) for selected lessons from TeamKID units on family. Eight sessions are suggested for both preschoolers and children. This allows discipleship studies for preschoolers and children to support Love Dare studies with a family emphasis.

**Options for student studies:**
**KNOWN (4 units):**
An undated electronic bundle on LOVE is now available.

DiscipleNow/True Love Waits resources (Most are 5 units):
- **A Student’s Guide to the Five Love Languages** by Gary Chapman and Tony Rankin
  *(Note: There also is a Love Languages resource for parents of teens that might be a good follow-up for adults who do the Love Dare study.)*
- **Complete: A Life of Purity** by Pam Gibbs and Mike Wakefield
This is a flip-book with half of it addressing girls and half of it addressing guys. It deals with developing a lifestyle of purity in every area, including heart, mind, and speech.

- **Sexual Resolutions** by Paul Kelly
  This study covers areas like accepting God’s forgiveness, respecting the opposite sex, having a pure mind, loving as Jesus loved, and sexual purity.

- **Pure Joy** by Matt Tullos, Paul Turner, and Kristi Cherry
  This one is actually 6 units, but it also emphasizes holistic purity.

**VITAL series** (Each has 4 full units plus an optional bonus unit. (Some are also available in Spanish.)

- **Vital Truth: Family**
- **Vital Skills: How to Be a Godly Woman**
- **Vital Skills: How to Be a Godly Man**
- **Vital Skills: How to Build Healthy Family Relationships**
- **Vital Character: Purity**
- **Vital Character: Love**

**Serendipity House Hang Time Student Series**

**Family Funk** (7 sessions, includes some material for dealing with dysfunctional families)

**What’s the best size for a group?**
The best size for this group is between three and six couples. This gives the group a better chance for interaction and trust. If you are seeing the possibility of larger groups, consider dividing into smaller breakout groups.

You might determine that some study elements work well in the large group, but allow for smaller groupings so balanced interaction can occur. Most people are uncomfortable speaking out in a large-group venue.

**Will I have to share about my marriage with everybody?**
The Love Dare group experience won’t require you to “speak on demand.” You can remain silent until you feel like sharing. We believe that, as the experience progresses, your comfort level will improve, especially if you do the dares. Your participation will be valuable to the overall group process.

Make sure that your spouse is comfortable with how you share information with the larger group. If you are unsure, ask your mate. Don’t try to make the session group therapy. Often important issues can only be resolved in a more intimate atmosphere.

Confidentiality and trust are cornerstones of this experience. Everything shared in the room will remain confidential.
Will we have homework?
Certainly there won’t be demerits for missed assignments! No one will "guilt" you into doing the love dares and the other challenges you'll experience, but the dares are a huge part of the group experience and your couple experience. It's important to try to keep up. Shoot to do all 40 dares, but don't obsess if you miss a day or two here and there. But please try! It will make your marriage stronger and may resurrect love and intimacy that has been dormant for years.

You don't want to miss how God will speak to you through The Love Dare. To get a taste of what others have experienced, go to www.sharethelovedare.com.

Is this study just for young couples and newlyweds or marriages that are in trouble?
Absolutely not! Every marriage is in need of a little fireproofing, right? Who wouldn't want to improve the quality of a good marriage? Also keep in mind that as a strong marriage grows, you'll only encourage other couples whose marriages aren't so strong. Model the strategy of marriage mentoring.

What if my spouse won't come?
Please come anyway. There are many scenarios for spouse non-participation. A spouse may be called into active military duty. He or she might not be able to work around a job schedule. There may be an issue with which you are struggling. Just let the group know that your spouse may not attend and join in.

Remember the story of the movie. We see the picture of a man going through The Love Dare without the participation of the wife. You can do it, too. It may seem awkward at times when couples discuss things, but from the outset you can accept the situation. We believe you will be glad you came.

We've been to marriage enrichment studies before. How will this one be different?
The Love Dare group experience is a mixture of discussion, theater, and couple activities. As compared to groups and week-to-week studies, this is a day-by-day study. This marriage enrichment experience is a synergy concept. Each couple helps build marriages within the group with shared stories and a willingness to grow.

Also the Love Dare group experience is church based and will ultimately raise the level of spiritual growth within the entire church and community.

We hope you'll see this event as a huge step toward spiritual awakening in your church.
Celebrate with a Marriage Covenant-Renewal Event

Well, it’s over. The Love Dare Bible Study, the church campaign, and your readings in The Love Dare are done. But the benefits of your efforts during the past few weeks will last a lifetime.

For your church, the most meaningful portion of the campaign could be a Marriage Covenant-Renewal Event. This event should be...

A Celebration
It is an opportunity to celebrate the God moments, the times during your campaign when lives were transformed in a way that can only be explained by the fact that God did it. So make this time a big party with decorations, balloons, and refreshments. The point is to celebrate what God has done in the lives of individuals and couples!

A Commitment
God has changed lives and marriages. You and others have begun living The Love Dare. But, who says you have to stop? A marriage covenant-renewal event is an opportunity for couples in your church to recommit together to live the biblical picture of covenant marriage.
Sample renewal vows may be found in “A Group Renewal of the Marriage Covenant Before God.”

Be sure to plan in advance. Perhaps even send out wedding-style invitations. Consider enlisting whoever coordinates weddings at your church to champion this event. But, more than anything, make it a special time for your couples to renew their commitment to covenant between God and each other.

Creative
Following your commitment ceremony, you may choose to have a “wedding reception.” You could ask each couple to bring, in advance, a framed wedding picture to include in the decorations. Serve punch, wedding cake (topped with salt and pepper shakers, of course), and other refreshments. You could even ask more mature mentor couples to host a table. Allow those couples to decorate their table with their personal china and centerpieces.

Be creative! The ideas are endless. Whatever you do, mark the Love Dare experience with the type of closure that keeps couples’ relationships and commitments strong and vibrant.