

**Continue Marriage
Preparation
Discussion if Needed
(About 15-20
minutes)**

Sweden Bahá'í Summer School,
July 2026



Discussing Marriage Preparation

Activity

Presenter
Susanne M. Alexander
Marriage Transformation®

Individuals & Couples: Investigation

“One of the cardinal principles of the Faith, and one of the primary duties given to every individual in this Dispensation, is to **investigate reality independently**. This is an aspect of the quality of justice, ‘the best beloved of all things’, as Bahá’u’lláh says. An application of this principle and of this duty in relation to marriage is for the individual to become fully informed of the character of any prospective partner he or she is contemplating for marriage.... Although the primary **responsibility for so doing naturally rests with the two individuals concerned, their parents have a vital role to play in this respect**, as they must decide whether or not to give their consent for the marriage.

(Continued...)



Individuals, Couples, & Parents: Detachment

“They can provide a **different and perhaps more detached perspective** in determining whether a potential spouse is suitable for their child. Parents give or withhold their consent for marriage for reasons of their own, and in this regard they are responsible to God alone; the expectation is that they will act with justice and with fairness to the parties concerned.

“As is the case with other situations that require the **investigation of facts so as to be able to make informed decisions**, information must be gathered from reliable sources until the individuals responsible for making the decision are satisfied that they have an adequate picture. Even so, all the facts that one would wish to have in hand are not always obtainable, as one cannot go beyond reasonable measures of investigation....
(continued...)



Individuals & Couples: Backbiting

“One of the questions that may arise in connection with the investigation of the character of a potential spouse is whether the sharing of facts and the consultation with others that may be necessary for an informed decision constitute **backbiting**. In this respect, there is a clear **distinction between speaking ill of others and passing on important information out of genuine concern for the good of innocent persons**. It is worth noting that the House of Justice, in answers to previous queries, has clarified that the injunction against backbiting is different in character from disclosing, in an **appropriate remedial context, the abusive actions of others towards oneself and others**. Where such action is justified, as in the case where one may be recovering from the effects of abuse or when the protection of other innocent individuals is concerned, then one should not hesitate to take whatever action, consistent with Bahá'í principles, is needed.”

(On behalf of the Universal House of Justice, “Investigation of Character, Courtship Practices, and Selection of a Marriage Partner”, #19)



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Building a Marriage Fortress

Activity

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“And when He [God] desired to manifest grace and beneficence to men, and to set the world in order, He ... created laws; among them He established the law of marriage, made it as a **fortress for well-being and salvation...**”

(Bahá'u'lláh, “To Set the World in Order”, #14)

[Note: “Salvation” can mean such things as protection, spiritual growth and well-being, healing...]



“The Lord ... hath made woman and man to abide with each other in the **closest companionship**, and to be even as a **single soul**. They are two helpmates, two intimate friends, who should be concerned about the welfare of each other.” (*‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, #92*)

“In Bahá’í marriage, **love, equality, intimacy, fidelity, sexual relations, childbearing, and childrearing are integrated** and their interconnection strengthened, establishing a fortress for personal and social well-being.” (Universal House of Justice, March 19, 2025)



Being Marriage and Family Builders (15 minutes)



You are a construction crew hired to build a marriage and family fortress with elements of well-being and salvation. Individually, as a couple or family, or in groups, you will decide what elements are part of that fortress and print each element in large letters on pretend “bricks”.

Example: LOVE



- **What are the foundation bricks/elements of a healthy marriage and family?**
- **Vilka är de grundläggande byggstenarna/elementen i ett hälsosamt äktenskap och en sund familj?**



Sharing (15 minutes)

3 people pick a brick, and each person talks about:

- **why the element on the brick is important** as a foundation for a marriage and family fortress
- **2 examples of what the element looks like in marriage and family**



Thursday Afternoon Workshop

Creating Unity with Friendship, Laughter,
and Social Vitality

Youth: Relationship Workshop

Friday Morning

- Creating New Marriages and Families
- Equality in Marriages and Families



***Thank You
Tack***



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