



*Haven of Hope Relational Care Intensive
Facilitator's Guide*

Based on material from



Intimate Life Ministries, a member of The Great Commandment Network, and



Center for Relational Care

Haven of Hope Relational Care Facilitator's Guide

Version 1.1

For use with Version 3.0 of the *Haven of Hope Relational Care Intensive Workbook*

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About Haven of Hope

Haven of Hope is a global and local outreach to marriages, with a focus on serving those who serve others. The primary vehicle for this outreach is through relational care intensives, a multi-day, therapeutically and biblically sound program offering structured, focused opportunities for personal growth and relational enrichment. Intensives provide a safe, supportive environment where God's processes for healing hurts, resolving conflicts and alleviating fear are applied, often with dramatically positive results.

Mark and Pat Juarez founded Haven of Hope in 2009, when they were called overseas to minister to the marriages of missionaries in Turkey. Mark and Pat worked with over 100 couples over the next 3½ years and began to train other couples to serve as facilitators. After returning to the US in 2012, Mark and Pat have continued to serve missionaries in Turkey by returning annually with their growing team of facilitators for an extended period of marriage intensives with worker couples.

Haven of Hope's reach began to expand to Eastern Europe in 2015 through a series of intensives held for missionary couples and volunteers working in marriage and family ministry. Couples in Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Ukraine and Slovenia have not only had their own marriages transformed, they have also been equipped to use Haven of Hope materials in their own ministries.

Haven of Hope is a completely donor-supported ministry, offering its intensives to missionaries at no cost. If you would like to participate in this ministry by providing prayer support, giving financially, or offering your time and talents to become a facilitator, please visit our website at www.havenofhopeinternational.org.

About Mark and Pat Juarez

Mark & Pat Juarez were married in 1965 after knowing each other for three whole months! They have three sons and eleven grandchildren. Mark is a 1989 graduate of LIFE Bible College (now Life Pacific College) in California. From 1986 to 2008, Mark and Pat served on the staffs of Pasadena Foursquare Church in Pasadena, California, Living Hope Foursquare Church in Cedar Park, Texas, and Northwest Fellowship in Austin, Texas. They founded Haven of Hope in 2009 and served in Turkey for 3½ years before returning to Northwest Fellowship in 2012. Mark and Pat moved to Sun City, Arizona in 2017 and continue to lead the growing Haven of Hope ministry from the Valley of the Sun.



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Guiding Principles

There are four overarching principles to keep in mind when facilitating a Haven of Hope relational care intensive:

1. The material, while excellent, is only as good as your level of comfort with and ownership of the content. It must come from *you*, or rather, from your heart. Make sure your story and your experiences of God's guidance and intervention are brought forth as appropriate.
2. Believe it or not, an intensive is supposed to be fun. Yes, there will often be hard truths to face, difficult memories to process, and painful hurts to heal. There will likely be tears – but there can be laughter, too. Your guests will benefit if they see you “glorifying God and enjoying Him forever.” (*Westminster Shorter Catechism*)
3. The most important principle is that it is God through the Holy Spirit who works in the lives and relationships of our guests. What we have to say is far less important than the work guests will do in the exercises throughout the intensive. We are merely shining – or more accurately, *reflecting* – a light and pointing the way to God. The less we lecture and advise, the more our guests will benefit. As Jesus Himself said in John 3:30, “He (God) must increase, but I must decrease.”
4. OK, we lied. The *most* important principle is that the intensive should be bathed in prayer. As soon as the participants are known to the facilitator team, pray for each person/couple by name on a regular basis. To the extent specific issues or obstacles are known, pray that they would be removed. Ask close friends to be praying for you before and during the intensive; for stamina, for discernment, for supernatural empathy, and for humility.

Armed with these principles, facilitators should embrace the following additional guidance to hold a successful relational care intensive:

1. **Experience the intensive yourself before leading others through it.** Haven of Hope does not impose rigid restrictions on the use of this material, but this is the one non-negotiable prerequisite. Biblical truths must be experienced in your own life before others can truly learn from you. This is true discipleship: mentoring others in the ways of God as He has refined them in our own hearts and minds. Therefore, engage the material as a participant on a Haven of Hope relational care intensive before seeking to use it in your own ministry.



2. **Commit to experiencing intimacy in your own relationships.** The integrity and effectiveness of the intensive requires that the facilitators are able not only to model the underlying principles but also to share them naturally and constantly in their interactions. Leadership without this kind of commitment will likely be experienced as “resounding gongs and clanging cymbals.”
3. **Be willing to be appropriately vulnerable.** Leaders who are willing to share about their own struggles and ways that God is molding them will create an atmosphere of safety and trust that encourages others to be genuine.
4. **Ensure a safe relational environment for all participants.** It goes without saying that everything shared on an intensive goes without saying! Strict confidentiality must be assured and maintained.
5. **Be accepting of others, just as Christ accepts us.** Guests may be walking in ways that we believe are not pleasing to God, but the facilitator’s role is to meet them at their point of need rather than take on the convicting role of the Holy Spirit. A judgmental spirit will restrict openness and growth. This approach does not reflect a softness toward sin; instead, it reflects the approach of Jesus with Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and the adulterous woman about to be stoned by the Pharisees (John 8). In those cases, Jesus looked beyond their sin to see their need for a restorative relationship with God. We do well to do likewise.
6. **Be sober-minded about your role, recognizing your limits.** In your desire to help others, be careful to remember that it is God who heals, God who restores, and God who transforms. Avoid the tendency to “rescue” a hurting person with a pep talk, or “fix” challenging situations by giving advice. In such situations, we may actually hinder the work God is wanting to do by getting in the way of the Holy Spirit. Realize also that you may be confronted with circumstances that require professional assistance from a doctor or counselor.
7. **Be moved with compassion as Jesus was.** Even though it will be common to rejoice together with our guests according to Romans 12:15, you should be prepared also to weep with them, according to the second part of that same verse. When you see a person hurting, let yourself be moved with the compassion of Christ, rather than moved to preach, teach, admonish, or condemn. Use words to express your heartfelt concern for the person’s pain.



About the Facilitator's Guide

The *Haven of Hope Relational Care Intensive Facilitator's Guide* will help you conduct an effective, God-honoring relational care intensive in a variety of settings and formats. Sandwiched by segments on preparing for and concluding an intensive, each chapter of the Facilitator's Guide ("the guide") covers a session of the intensive material as found in the *Haven of Hope Relational Care Intensive Workbook*, and consists of the following sections:

- At a Glance – a summary of the key elements of the session.
- Preparation – suggestions for how to prepare and what, if any, additional materials should be made ready.
- Step by Step – a walkthrough of each of the sections in the session, supplying valuable background and identifying important points to be made.

To the right of each section title is an icon which indicates the typical setting for that section (see the next section, Preparing for the Intensive):



- Large group



- Small group

Within each section are bulleted lists which are distinguished as follows:

 - Background information or advice on how to present the material.

 - Suggested content to be put into your own words for use.

You will also see suggestions for making the session more interactive. These interaction opportunities are highlighted as follows:



This is an interaction opportunity. Use it to ensure that the sessions do not become one-sided lectures.

- Wrap-up/Homework – a recap of the session, including tasks the guests will need to complete outside of the session.



Facilitator Fundamentals

- Tips from Facilitators – actual ideas/suggestions from experienced facilitators to make the most of the material. The tips will typically focus on approaches or insights that will be useful in the small group sessions where modeled exercises are carried out by the guests as opposed to the initial presentations covered in the Step by Step section.

The *Haven of Hope Relational Care Intensive Workbook* (“the workbook”) contains the material that will be covered; other than for points of emphasis it will not be repeated in this guide. Instead, the focus will be on ways to augment or effectively summarize that content. Where it is appropriate to simply read from the workbook, the guide will say so.

In the Additional Resources at the end of the guide, you will find material covering other practical aspects of hosting a Haven of Hope intensive – different types/scopes of intensives with sample schedules, worship during the intensive, etc.

If you have any questions about the Haven of Hope Relational Intensive, please contact the Haven of Hope team by visiting www.havenofhopeinternational.org.



Preparing for the Intensive

Besides eliciting prayer for the intensive and your role in it, there are several tasks to complete before an intensive is held:

1. First and foremost, the intensive approach must be determined. The Haven of Hope Relational Care Intensive has been used for groups ranging in size from one couple to over twenty couples. The intensive is a combination of large group presentations to all the guests simultaneously and small group discussions for more individual attention and interaction. The level of attention required by the small groups generally limits the number of guest couples to around four couples per facilitator couple. Thus, the way to estimate your maximum number of guest couples is to multiply the number of available facilitator couples by four.
2. The venue must be considered and secured. It is usually best if the venue is a “getaway” opportunity for the guests. Away from routine responsibilities and distractions, the guests can focus on their relationship. This is indeed a significant component of ministering to the guests; it can be your home, a hotel, a retreat facility or similar venue, and does not need to be costly to be effective.
3. While the *Haven of Hope Relational Care Intensive Workbook* contains all the material and activities to be carried out during the intensive, there are two pre-intensive questionnaires that should be emailed or otherwise provided to the guests in advance of the intensive. These questionnaires provide background information on the guests and will help you work more effectively with them, but are not an absolute requirement. However, responding meaningfully to the questionnaires can be seen as something of a leading indicator of the guests’ willingness to explore their relationships. Contact the Haven of Hope team to obtain those questionnaires in digital form.
4. A schedule should be prepared for distribution to the guests. It is important for them to know what to expect and when to expect it, and will help keep the intensive on track. Sample schedules can be found in the Additional Resources section. There is flexibility in the ordering of the sessions and the sections within the sessions, and many sessions can be presented in either the large group setting or during small group time. (Obviously, if there is one guest couple, there is no distinction between the two!) Review the sample schedules for guidance, and seek the counsel of other experienced facilitators and/or the team at Haven of Hope if you have questions.



Introduction at a Glance

Key Concept

- To achieve true intimacy, there are four major questions that must be addressed.

Central Scripture Passages

- Matthew 22:37-39 – *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself."*
- John 12:35 – *"Walk in the light, before the darkness overtakes you."*

Objectives

1. To set the tone for the intensive well – to dispel potential fears and raise expectations that, with God's help, a good work will be done during this time.
2. To review the four questions that will be addressed throughout the intensive.
3. To articulate a primary goal of the intensive, to walk away with an Intimacy Action Plan.
4. To introduce the concept of experiencing scripture.



Preparation

1. Review pages 1-11 of the workbook so that you are familiar with what your guests will be reading/seeing.
2. Since this is the opening session of the intensive, make sure you are prepared to launch the intensive in a welcoming, encouraging way. In a larger group setting, it may be appropriate to introduce the whole facilitator team before moving into the material.
3. Familiarize yourself with the key Bible verses that will be highlighted during the session. If possible, commit them (especially the Great Commandment) to memory.
4. Familiarize yourself with the pre-intensive questionnaires of your guests. Take note of the negative emotions in their adult life. Listen for how they may show up during the intensive.



Step by Step

Four Questions Regarding Intimacy



- ① The workbook lays this out nicely; just read from it, noting that you will be going into the Intimacy Action Plan shortly.

Experiencing Relational Truth



- ① In addition to the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39), which is displayed in the workbook, be prepared with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), which is not.



Do a quick "sword drill": ask the guests to share the verses and content of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission to lead to the point that "the Great Commandment came BEFORE the Great Commission."

- ① The key message of the "one another" verses is to connect our marriage relationships to the Great Commandment: to love our NEAREST neighbor as ourselves.



Rather than walking through all the verses on pages 3-6, give the guests 2-3 minutes to pick one of the verses they most want to experience during the intensive, and share it with their "nearest neighbor."



Walking in the Light



- ① The workbook lays out all three aspects of “Walking in the Light” effectively, but it is important to connect the previous section to the first: walking in the light of the Word. Be sure to emphasize the “mechanics” of experiencing Scripture spelled out in the workbook description.



If time permits, ask the guests to return to the verses they most want to experience during the intensive and spend 5 minutes praying in the manner described in “1. Walk in the light of the Word” on page 7 of the workbook.

Homework: Walking in the Light Worksheet



- ① Encourage the guests to spend some focused time with the questions and respond with an honest appraisal of where they are right now.
- ① Then encourage them to meditate on the scripture passages provided and experience Scripture in this way.



Wrap-up/Homework

Wrap-up

1. The *Introduction* session is often followed immediately by the *Aloneness and Intimacy* session, so be sure to remind the guests of the homework assignment below at the end of the day/evening.
2. It may be helpful to share a personal story about experiencing Scripture to help solidify the concept for the guests.

Homework

1. Walking in the Light Worksheet, pages 9-11 – encourage the guests to be honest with where they are right now vs. giving “the Sunday School answer.”



Tips from Facilitators

- A brief introductory parable/story to launch the intensive may be helpful to break the ice and set a proper tone. An example: walk through a juxtaposition of the American custom of decorating newlyweds' automobiles with the words "Just Married" contrasted with the more literal meaning of the phrase as "barely married."
- It is good to emphasize the servant nature of our role on an intensive; often we use the phrase "we count it a privilege to work with you and hear your stories, and we do not take that for granted or regard it lightly." This is also a good time to remind/assure all guests of the complete confidentiality of everything that is discussed during the intensive.
- We find it helpful to note that the couples attending have been prayed for by name since the intensive was scheduled, and are being prayed for throughout our time together.

