

Welcome

We are honored that you desire to speak with one of our counselors. Please come into the church office to pick up a Marital Assessment Inventory for each of you. Please set aside two to three hours to complete these forms. Please complete the forms in their entirety and return to the church offices, *Attention: Scott Miller*. As soon as we receive the completed and signed assessments, we will call you to discuss scheduling your first appointment.

We do not provide long-term counseling. We typically see clients for six to eight sessions. If you feel this time-frame is not adequate for your needs, we can refer you to a qualified Christian counselor.

What We Are

Big Valley Grace's Lay Counseling Ministry is designed to provide encouragement, insight, and biblical guidance during times of crisis, change, and personal or family difficulties. Our lay counselor will listen, clarify, and offer hope, encouragement, prayer, and sound Biblical advice. Our goal is to help you resolve the challenges you are facing.

What We Are Not

Lay counseling is not mental health care and should not be substituted for professional therapy or counseling. By law, we are unable to provide lay counseling services if you are already under the care of a paid professional counselor. We do not perform psychiatric evaluations, nor do we prescribe medication. Our lay counselors are well-trained to address many situations and life challenges, but there are some counseling situations that are beyond our training. When this is the case, professional counseling will be recommended. **We are not licensed therapists; we are trained biblical lay and pastoral counselors.**

The Process

- Complete the Marital Assessment Inventory and sign the Confidentiality Statement.
- Return completed forms to the church offices, *Attention: Scott Miller*.
- You'll receive a call regarding wait times (if applicable) and appointment scheduling.

Should you choose to submit this application, know that we will be partnering with you in prayer long before your first appointment. We look forward to being a part of God's healing process for you. If you have questions or concerns, we can be reached at 209-577-1604, ext. 341. You can also reach us via email at LoriB@bvg.org.

Sincerely,



Scott Miller
Pastor of Counseling Ministries
Big Valley Grace Community Church