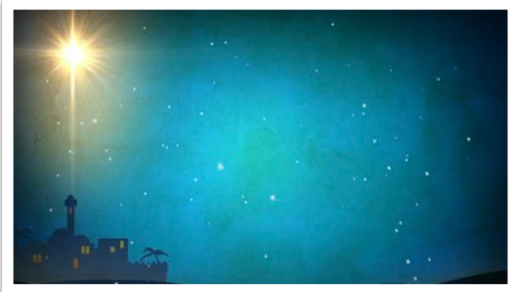


# COUPLES RETREAT

DECEMBER 2022

## CALIFORNIA

### O Little Town of Bethlehem



O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

### A Word from the Directors



Rita and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas! Starting with Thanksgiving and leading right into Christmas it's a very busy time for most families and believe it or not stressful. Gift giving, traveling, entertaining, budgets and schedules certainly can put a strain on trying to produce the perfect Christmas. But, we want to encourage you to not lose sight of the reason for the season...it's Jesus. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Isaiah 9:6

### 9 Reasons to Get Married



I'll admit I am a hopeless romantic. But today in real life, wedding bells aren't ringing as often. "According to Pew Research Center Study" the number of 'never married adults' is at an historic high and singles outnumber married people in the U.S. for the first time."

While many may have their reasons for not getting married and feel that marriage is a dying institution, we strongly disagree. Marriage between a man and woman was instituted by God. "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." (Genesis 2:23-24) Here are nine reasons to get married.

1. Marriage is the cornerstone of a stable society.
2. Marriage is a sacred covenant between the couple and God.
3. Marriage benefits the individuals.
4. Marriage is the best way to raise children.
5. Marriage creates a safe relationship.
6. Marriage creates a powerful synergy.
7. Marriage helps us become more like Christ.
8. Marriage gives us the help we need.
9. Marriage and a healthy family is our greatest witness to a lost world.

Read more [www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com) by Gary Smalley