

At CCC, our desire is to do whatever we can to prepare couples for marriage, help couples build a great marriage, and if needed, to help resurrect hurting marriages.

One way to make an ongoing investment in your marriage is through a brand new ministry called re | engage. For more information, check below!



**MON., AUG. 27 | 6:15–8 P.M.**

Would you rate your marriage as a two or a ten? Maybe even a zero? You're not alone. Relengage is a sixteen-week experience that offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through teaching, stories of grace and Small groups. We encourage you to join us on Aug. 27 to see what it's all about! Pre-registration is appreciated. Find out more at [hudson.ccchapel.com/events](http://hudson.ccchapel.com/events).



## PART 1

### MAD LIBS

while driving to dinner

#### Instructions

1. Start driving to your dinner destination.
2. While driving, the passenger asks the driver to provide a word for each of the required blanks.
3. As the driver gives each answer, the passenger writes down the answer in each blank spot.

#### 10 TIPS FOR A FUN MARRIAGE!

1. Guys, make sure you help around the house by \_\_\_\_\_ (*chore ending with "-ing"*) in a \_\_\_\_\_ (*favorite super hero*) costume.
2. Gals, you will drive your husband wild when you wear your wool \_\_\_\_\_ (*article of clothing*) and your \_\_\_\_\_ (*favorite sports team*) jersey to bed.
3. Gals, he loves it when you call him pet names like "little \_\_\_\_\_ (*farm animal*)" or "big \_\_\_\_\_ (*fruit or vegetable*)."
4. Guys, remind your mother-in-law how much she reminds you of \_\_\_\_\_ (*favorite movie villain*).
5. Gals, remind him daily that you really appreciate his ability to \_\_\_\_\_ (*verb*) while \_\_\_\_\_ (*verb ending with "-ing"*).
6. Guys, no matter how bad her cooking tastes, never tell her it tastes like an old pair of \_\_\_\_\_ (*favorite type of footwear*).
7. Admire your spouse's \_\_\_\_\_ (*adjective*) \_\_\_\_\_ (*body part(s)*) every chance you get.
8. Speak in a \_\_\_\_\_ (*foreign language*) accent each time you \_\_\_\_\_ (*verb*) together.
9. Each morning, give your spouse a \_\_\_\_\_ (*adjective*) kiss and a \_\_\_\_\_ (*adjective*) hug.
10. Have sex like a couple of wild \_\_\_\_\_ (*animal plural*) every chance you get.

If you still have some time left after playing Mad Libs, both of you answer these questions:

What was the most fun you remember having with me during our first year of marriage?  
During childhood, which activity was most fun for you?  
Who is the funniest person you have ever met?

## PART 2

### WOULD YOU RATHER?

while eating dinner

#### Instructions

1. Start to play this game after you have ordered your food.
2. Each of you will read one another six questions (we suggest each of you take turns answering a question).
3. You must pick one of the two options and give your reason for picking that option.
4. Go on to part three during dessert.

#### GUYS

Ask your wife these questions...

1. Would you rather go for a walk outside together or sit and drink coffee together?
2. Would you rather be stuck in an elevator with two wet dogs or two men with really bad breath?
3. Would you rather have 24 hours away by yourself or have 24 hours away with your closest girlfriend(s)?
4. Would you rather be a giant hamster or be a tiny rhino?
5. Would you rather I go "all out" for your birthday or Christmas?
6. Would you rather have a tattoo on your arm of Wonder Woman or Bat Girl?

#### GALS

Ask your husband these questions...

1. Would you rather have 24 hours away by yourself, or have 24 hours away with your closest buddies?
2. Would you rather ride a roller coaster for 24 hours straight or eat nothing but Spam for three days?
3. Would you rather give up the internet for a week or give up coffee/tea for a week?
4. Would you rather be a Ninja or a Pirate?
5. Would you rather have a reputation as being someone who is "smart" or being someone who is "funny"?
6. Would you rather have to shout everything you said or hop everywhere you went?

#### HOMEWORK

Like all things in marriage, having fun requires intentionality and effort. Once a week, sit down and ask yourselves the following five questions. This will help you be intentional and stay connected with each other. There's nothing "special" about the questions. What is special is what happens when a couple regularly sets aside time to sit down and talk about their relationship. The consistency and frequency of these conversations is what is so helpful.

Our homework for you is to add these questions below to your routine. Pick a night during the next week to review these questions and make these questions a part of your weekly routine.

1. How did you feel loved this past week?
2. What does your upcoming week look like?
3. How would you feel most loved & encouraged in the days ahead?
4. How would you best feel pursued in sex/intimacy this week?
5. What can we do to have fun this week?

(Source: [www.todaysletters.com](http://www.todaysletters.com))

## PART 3

### CRANIUM

while eating dessert

#### Instructions

1. Each of you will either draw something related to each question below.
2. You have to either draw with your eyes closed or with your non-dominant hand.

#### GUYS

Draw your answer in the space below.

1. Would you rather go for a walk outside together or sit and drink coffee together?
2. The most fun thing I think we've had over the past 12 months is ...
3. I would like us to spend more free time doing ...

#### GALS

Draw in the space below.

1. The kindest/most thoughtful thing you have ever done for me is...
2. The most adventurous thing I think we've ever done is...
3. If I could go anywhere in the world on vacation (money is no object), I would like to go to...

## Let's face it.

Sometimes, in the day to day busyness of life, it's easy to take your spouse for granted, and sometimes quality time with your spouse takes a back seat to family, jobs, ministry, and your busy schedule. It doesn't take long before you just plain forget why you fell in love in the first place. We cannot let the busyness of marriage squeeze out the joy of being married. That's why we have created a date night just for you so that you remember the importance of "JUST US."

For the JUST US Date Night, we have provided some activities and questions to help you have serious fun, remember why you fell in love and get to know each other all over again. Don't feel pressure to do all of the activities and questions, but instead use them as a guide for your date night. Overall, the goal is for you to laugh a lot, encourage each other and draw close. In the end, we hope this is a reminder that you need to do this a lot more often.

Enjoy the night,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd".

*Todd Iannetta*

*Marriage & Family Pastor*

*Christ Community Chapel*

## **Well done getting involved in tonight's date night.**

We certainly hope that you and your wife had a great night. As we're sure you know, one great date does not make a great marriage. One of the best practices we've seen when it comes to cultivating a great marriage is consistency. When a husband consistently makes attempts to honor and cherish his wife, typically these efforts are appreciated and responded to well. As husbands, it is great to remember that we don't always have to plan big, extravagant date nights. Small, consistent deposits often elicit the same response and communicate love more than large and inconsistent deposits.

With that in mind, here are some great practical ideas for some things to do to pursue your wife in the days ahead. In his book "Love and Respect" Dr. Emerson Eggerichs uses the acrostic "COUPLE" to describe six practical ways to love your wife based on Ephesians 5:33, "However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." (ESV):

### **Closeness** *She wants to be close to you.*

At some point this week, just sit next to her on the couch while watching TV and put your arm around her, or hold her hand, or rub her feet, etc. Non-sexual touch communicates love.

### **Openness** *She wants you to open up to her.*

When our wives ask us how our day was, they want to know more than just the scheduling details. They want to know what you were thinking and feeling throughout the day: At some point this week, when talking about your day, open up to her and tell her what made you feel happy about your day or what made you feel anxious about your day or what made you feel insecure about your day. Sharing what is going on in your heart and head communicates love.

### **Understanding** *She wants to be listened to and not fixed.*

When you get home from work one day this week, make a point to ask her questions about her day and really listen. Ask follow up questions. Ask her how certain events made her feel. Asking questions and listening often helps more than giving our solutions and communicates love.

**Peacemaking** *She wants you to initiate reconciliation.*

If you and your wife get into conflict this week, take the lead and initiate reconciliation, even if it is not your fault. Initiating reconciliation communicates that you want there to be peace and connection in your relationship and communicates love.

**Loyalty** *She needs to know you're committed.*

At some point this week, write your wife an email, send a text message, and/or leave a note that says, "I love you and I'm so glad I get to be married to you." These are words your wife needs to hear often. These are words that communicate commitment to the relationship. When she knows you are committed, she feels loved.

**Esteem** *She wants to know you honor and cherish her.*

At some point this week, verbally communicate your appreciation for something your wife has done around the house. In addition, make it a point to brag on her to one of your buddies or co-workers (then of course tell her you bragged on her). This doesn't need to be forced and cheesy, just appreciate something about her and tell her. When she knows you appreciate her, she feels loved.

***Congrats if you went 6 for 6. Your wife told us she won't mind at all if you repeated these again!***

## **Well done getting involved in tonight's date night.**

We certainly hope that you and your husband had a great night. As we're sure you know, one great date does not make a great marriage. One of the best practices we've seen when it comes to cultivating a great marriage is consistency. When a wife consistently makes attempts to respect her husband, typically these efforts are appreciated and responded to well. As wives, it is great to remember that we don't always have to plan big, extravagant date nights. Small, consistent deposits often elicit the same response and communicate love more than large and inconsistent deposits.

With that in mind, here are some great practical ideas for some things to do to pursue your husband in the days ahead. In his book "Love and Respect" Dr. Emerson Eggerichs uses the acrostic "CHAIRS" to describe six practical ways to respect your husband based on Ephesians 5:33, "However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (ESV):

### **Conquest** *Appreciate his desire to work and achieve.*

One day this week, tell your husband how much you appreciate his desire to do his work with excellence and his desire to achieve at work.

### **Hierarchy** *Appreciate his desire to protect and provide.*

One day this week, thank your husband for how much you appreciate his desire to provide for the family and protect the home. Thank him for the way he has provided for your family, a project he has recently completed around the house or a way you feel protected.

### **Authority** *Appreciate his desire to serve and lead.*

Men love to try and lead when helping with practical things—it is the way they are made by God. One day this week, thank your husband for a way he has served you recently (taking out the trash, helping with the dishes, giving the kids a bath, etc). If you start looking out for it, we bet you'll find something.

**Insight** *Appreciate his desire to analyze and control.*

Men love to help you solve problems. One day this week, invite your husband into a problem that you need help solving and watch him shine. Thank him for his desire to help solve problems and let him know what a blessing it is from God to have someone like that in your life to help you.

**Relationship** *Appreciate his desire for shoulder-to-shoulder friendship.*

At some point this week, engage with your husband in a hobby or area of interest to him. Does he like college basketball? Watch a game with him. Does he like to fish? Ask him to describe his best fishing day ever or look at a fishing gear catalog with him and ask him to explain how certain things work (you can do the same with golf, woodworking, cooking, or whatever his hobby is). Want 100 extra bonus points? If you enjoy the activity and he doesn't feel like you are pretending to enjoy it, you get 100 bonus points.

**Sexuality** *Appreciate his desire for sexual intimacy.*

At some point this week, initiate sex with your husband. Bonus points if you can build anticipation by leaving him a note on the bathroom mirror and send him a "fun" text message during the day.

***Congrats if you went 6 for 6! Your husband told us he won't mind at all if you repeated these again!***