

PLANNING A LIFE-GIVING MARRIAGE

The way we lead our lives on a day to day basis is a visible expression of the values that are important to us. We challenge you now to bring this weekend home with you. Through life-giving choices you will begin the ongoing process of formulating couple values and goals and setting the priorities necessary to achieve them.

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Check five areas that you see as a value in your future marriage.

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|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wife or husband works at home | <input type="checkbox"/> Careers | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raising a family | <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure time | <input type="checkbox"/> Money/Possessions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Own our own home | <input type="checkbox"/> Going to Church | <input type="checkbox"/> My independence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living close to family | <input type="checkbox"/> Finish school | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer/Spirituality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being active in Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Status | <input type="checkbox"/> Catholic education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited number of children | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Rate the following everyday activities in each SEPARATE column according to the priority needed to express your values. (1 = the highest)

<u>MONEY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PEOPLE</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Food	<input type="checkbox"/> Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Me
<input type="checkbox"/> Savings	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleep	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> My time	<input type="checkbox"/> God
<input type="checkbox"/> Charity	<input type="checkbox"/> Television	<input type="checkbox"/> Children
<input type="checkbox"/> Church	<input type="checkbox"/> Hobbies	<input type="checkbox"/> Relatives
<input type="checkbox"/> Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Time alone as a couple	<input type="checkbox"/> Friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Business associates
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Group activities/ sport clubs	
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> Church	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> Household Chores	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents	

DURING THE DIALOGUE TIME consider the following questions:

- How do our values/priorities differ?
- In which areas do I need to reassess my values/priorities?
- How open am I to change?



NOTE: After reading the summary, make every effort to respond to these questions, starting with those most significant.

DECISIONS IN MARRIAGE

Life-giving Decision Making Process

1. Prayer
2. Discernment
 - a. Gather facts
 - b. Consult others for advice
 - c. Mutual discussion
3. Mutual Agreement
4. Mutual Responsibility
5. Re-evaluation



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1. What important decision have we made recently that has affected us as a couple?
 - a. How did we seek God's guidance in prayer?
 - b. Whom and what resources did we consult besides each other?
 - c. In what ways was our decision a mutual agreement that we could both be committed to carry out?
 - d. How are we sharing the responsibility for the result of our decision?
 - e. When and how do we need to re-evaluate this decision?
 - f. How life-giving was this decision?
 2. The steps in the life-giving decision-making process that we used in making our decision to become married were ...
 3. What is my relationship with God? How will this affect our decision-making?
 4. How would I like God to be a part of our relationship? What decisions do we have to make to bring this about?
 5. What decision do we have to make to be more supportive of one another in the practice of each other's faith and religious beliefs?
 6. How important is your/my career to me and why? What life-giving decisions do we need to make about my/your career to enhance our marriage?
 7. What decisions have we made about handling our money? Are we handling our finances in a life-giving manner?
 8. What am I willing to do to help us reach a life-giving decision when a compromise seems difficult or impossible?
 9. How can we use the steps in making life-giving decisions in these additional areas?
 - * Use of time (family, work, activities, leisure)
 - * Involvement with parent(s)/friends after marriage
 - * Other