

# How important is Conversation in a marriage?

## Opening Prayer:

O Merciful God, we beseech Thee ever to remind us that the married state is holy, and that we must keep it so; Grant us Thy grace, that we may continue in faithfulness and love; Increase in us the spirit of mutual understanding and trust, that no quarrel or strife may come between us; Grant us Thy blessings, that we may stand before our fellows and in Thy sight as an ideal family; And finally, by Thy mercy, account us worthy of everlasting life: For Thou art our sanctification, and to Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Introduction:** Some experts say it's easy to lose the art of conversation especially after marriage. Others say, it is easy to allow everyday living to separate and distance us instead.

Whatever the case, its none-the-less important to keep the lines of communication and conversation open. This way you grow together rather than apart. Don't allow yourself to get into the situation like the couple below describes:

"The trouble in our marriage wasn't infidelity; it was fidelity with fatigue, a marriage gone soft and sour due to lack of attention. It was the lack of communication that nearly killed us."

### **Be Intentional.**

Look, find, figure out, MAKE the time to converse and connect with each other in meaningful ways.

We have to be intentional about communication interactions! But that can be tough, especially with kids, if you're always exhausted and most conversations have to do with groceries, schedules and naptimes.

"Dialog is to love what blood is to the body."

So, to help you in this mission for your marriage, we have provided some "Conversation Starters" from various resources to help you get started.

Keep in mind that these questions are not meant to cause division between you. They are meant to help you to better understand and know each other. If the conversation starts to go in a negative direction, stop and start again. If you need to revisit a particular question at another time to bridge your differences, then set a time to do so. But aim to do it in a way that is respectful of each other's character and feelings.

## Leaders Guide

### How important is Conversation in a Marriage?

- Print out copies for each participant
- Allow adequate time for couples to ask each other the following questions.

#### Questions to Ask:

- If you could store up only one hour's worth of memory in your mind, which hour of our marriage would you want to remember?
- If you could have witnessed any biblical event, which one would you choose?
- When do you feel most loved?
- Which strengths in your life bring you the greatest satisfaction?
- What is the best way for me to encourage you?
- What time of day is best for us to talk?
- If we could just drop what we're doing and go do something fun, what would it be?
- In your opinion, what makes a great parent?
- What are five essential values we want our children to embrace above all others?
- What can we do as a couple to change the world in which we live?
- What goals would you like us to accomplish in our marriage in the next year? ... five years? ... ten years?

#### Additional questions:

- What is your earliest memory?
- If you could live in any other time period, past or future, what period would you choose? Why?
- If you didn't have to worry about making a living, what would you most like to do for the rest of your life?
- When making decisions, do you put more trust in facts or in feelings? Are you pleased with most of your decisions?
- What do you consider to be your greatest strengths? Your greatest weaknesses?
- What is usually the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about God?
- Has there been a time in the past year or two when God seemed especially real or close to you? If so, explain.

## More Questions:

- If you could possess any extraordinary talent in one of the arts, what would you choose?
- In what ways do you think the marriages of our parents affect the marriage you and I share today? Be honest with me.
- Are there some times when a disagreement needs to be postponed? if so, when? How can we discern those kinds of times?
- When have you felt the most loved by me?
- What fears do you wrestle with the most? How do you manage them?
- What practical steps can we take as a couple to “affair-proof” our marriage?
- With so many marriages falling apart around us today, what steps can you and I take to ensure that we stay close as a couple, emotionally and spiritually?

*Adopted from the book Creative Conversation Starters for Couples and 201 Great Questions*

## Closing Prayer

“Be strong in the Lord, for He will provide stability in your Marriage and life. He will be your strength and guide you in your paths together!!!!” Amen