



## MARRIAGE AND ITS GIFTS—GREAT ENCOUNTER

Marriage Encounter Online

Have several sheets of paper ready for your love letter. Allow 75 minutes for PR on the following two pages. Please answer the questions as thoroughly as possible. Identify your answers by the numbers given. When your time is up (and before CD), take a break, then pray the prayer printed below before starting your Couple Dialogue. Allow 90 minutes for CD.

### MYSELF

1. What are my reasons for wanting to go on living?
2. What are my reasons for wanting to go on living as your spouse?
3. Where do I need to improve as a husband/wife?
4. What can I do to improve my relationship with God?
5. From whom do I need to give or receive forgiveness?

### THE TWO OF US

6. What do I like the most about you?
7. Do I see you and accept you as you really are?
8. What is it that most separates us? What most unites us?
9. How can we increase our confidence in each other?
10. I specifically and definitely need your help in ....
11. I think I should help you specifically ....
12. Am I satisfied with our sexual relationship?
13. What can and must we improve in our marriage?

### GOD

14. Are we helping each other to know and fulfill God's will?
15. What is separating us from Him? What unites us with Him?
16. What does God expect of us at this time in our lives?

### CHILDREN

17. Are we responsible parents? HDIF (How do I feel) about this?
18. What are my feelings toward each of the children?
19. Do I communicate with each of them? In what way? Do I listen?
20. Where do we agree and disagree about the children?
21. In what areas are we setting a bad example? HDIF about this?
22. What attitudes are they learning about material things from us?
23. Are our children able to sacrifice for others?

### FAMILY

24. What place does God occupy in our home? HDIF about this?
25. Have we tried to arrange our affairs so there is time, energy, and money to enjoy being together as a family?
26. Do we pray and worship together as a family?
27. Do any relatives interfere in our married life or our family life? What should and could we do about it?
28. Should we be doing something more than we are already doing for our relatives? What and how?
29. What goal do we have as a family? I would suggest . . .

## **COMMUNITY**

30. Are other people really important to us? How do we show it?
31. What specifically are we doing to help other people?
32. Is our home open and friendly? Do we practice the virtue of hospitality? HDIF about this?
33. Do we carry on our work in the spirit of the scriptures?
34. From now on, what should and what can we do for others in our community, our church (synagogue), our country?
35. What can we do to make the world a better place to live in?

**Go in peace and write with love!**

## **PRAYER DURING THE GREAT ENCOUNTER**

Lord, we come here for a brief rest from a very difficult task--each of us looking deeply and honestly at ourselves. Lord, this self-examination is not easy; we have done open-heart surgery on ourselves.

Help me to gain a new awareness of who I am and a new appreciation of the wonderful person to whom I am joined in the sacred bond of marriage. Allow me to discover new beauties, new strengths, new depths in the one I love, and a new capacity for love and understanding.

We welcome this time to rejuvenate our love. Give us now a greater ability to speak frankly, lovingly to each other in the dialogue we are about to have, a dialogue of hearts as well as minds. Give both of us the grace we need right now so that our future "I love you" will be more meaningful, responsible, Godlike.

We pray not only for ourselves, but for all couples who are making Marriage Encounter Online. We pray for couples who are having a difficult time, those who need this Marriage Encounter and this dialogue more than anyone else.

Lord, don't abandon anyone of us. We need you, now, this hour. Into your hands we commend our spirits. Amen.

When you're ready for CD, exchange your love letters with a kiss. Read through your spouse's entire letter once. Then reread each answer and dialogue on them, one at a time before going on to another. Allow 90 minutes for CD.

