

Pebbles of Truth

Couple's Worksheet

February 21, 2009

(This activity is designed primarily for married couples ... you could adapt it to lead a family devotional on the importance of mom and dad's marriage. We've included some guided conversation keys for you at the end of this page.)

Genesis 2:24-25 outlines the 4 Laws of Marriage. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. And the man and woman were both naked and unashamed."

Key Ideas:

Today's pebble of truth: we must "**leave**" anyone or anything that prevents us from making our spouses our number two priority (God first our spouse is second!)

Legitimate jealousy occurs when we allow anything, or anyone, no matter how important to consume your time and energy that rightfully belongs to your spouse. This can often be our parents, children, jobs, hobbies, etc. ...

Pyramid of Priorities: Ephesians chapters 4-6 spell out our walk with God, spouse, children, and then work as our order of priorities.

Listen to the pebble again ... and then find a quiet place to sit and answer these questions. Just for fun get two chairs that you can set up so you're chatting knee to knee nose to nose. Print out these questions and take some time to answer them together:

Why is it hard to re-prioritize our lives after marriage and children?

How have our priorities changed? Are we putting each other in that first priority spot? 2nd to God and above all others!

How can we continue to honor our parents without letting them exert improper influence?

How do we establish boundaries with our children or work's influences on our lives?

What are some other things that compete for the "top spot" in our lives?

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Share time when you experienced some legitimate jealousy of someone or something else competing for your spouse's attention?

How are we doing with our parents and kids in terms of priority?

What changes do we need to make to keep one another as our top priority?

How can I demonstrate that you are my number one relationship?

How do I feel that I am your top priority?

Action Plan:

Do you need to **repent** to each other and the Lord?

Re-prioritize your life ... get your spouse up there where s/he belongs. What will that look like?

Demonstrate that s/he is number one human relationship.

Invest chunks of your prime time and energy into one another.

If you'd like to include your children ... have them listen to the pebble of truth with you and then talk to them about why it is important for you and your spouse to keep each other first ...

Explain that they will grow up and probably get married, or at least leave home to live their own lives. They will have to leave mom and dad to make their new husband or wife the most important human relationship in their lives. (Your relationship with Jesus is the most important one!) Because they can't love their new mate with all of their hearts if they keep loving mom and dad more!

If mom and dad spend all their time and energy loving you (child) they may have trouble having enough love for each other ... and when you leave home mom and dad might not have any love for each other because they gave it away to other things

While Mom and Dad will be a little sad ... they will still be best friends and take care of each other. but we know that this is marry somebody to become their number one priority ...

If this was helpful please let us know at feedback@pebblesoftruth.com ... or hit the feedback button on the site ... thanks!

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