

# Marriage in God's Plan



## Love Triangle: You, God And Me

**Purpose of Presentation:** God's plan for marriage, revealed through scripture, is unity, not happiness. Last month in Image, we zeroed in on how each person experiences God individually. This month we will consider how we as a couple experience God, who is Unity and Love. Are we as a couple in partnership with God or is God a point of division? What difficulties do we encounter in relating to God as a couple? The purpose of this talk is to share with your Image group your experiences and feelings about God in your relationship and to set the atmosphere for dialog and sharing.

### Preparation for Meeting By Presenting Couple

**Method:** A. Do your written personal reflection and dialog on the following questions:

1. When have we as a couple felt tuned in to God? When have we felt a power greater than ourselves at work in our marriage? How do I feel about these experiences or lack of experiences? (Phone these questions to members of your Image group so that they may dialog on these before the meeting.)
  2. How do we as a couple purposely try to experience God?
  3. When have we not felt a power greater than ourselves at work, but in retrospect realize that God was there all along? How does this make me feel?
  4. How do I feel about the concept "let go and let God?" How have we as a couple let go and let God?
  5. How do we feel enthusiasm about our relationship?
- B. The following outline may be used in preparation of your talk. Your own feelings and experiences discovered in dialog will make your talk real. Remember to limit your talk to 20 minutes.

### The Meeting

**Dialog and Sharing Question:** How do I feel about the concept "let go and let God?" How have we as a couple let go and let God and how does this make me feel?

**Sharing Time:** Voluntary sharing of dialog and discussions on how couples experience God.

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians: 2: 13-22. In God's plan we have been chosen, that is, challenged to work towards unity. Am I committed to God's will or my self-will?

### Outline of Talk

- I. **Introduction (2 min. for each spouse)**
  - A. "Purpose" above.
  - B. What is the history of my relationship with God?  
Example: In my formative years, when married, later and now.
  - C. What were my expectations of how we as a couple would experience God?
  - D. Have I shared my personal God experience with my spouse? In what manner? How did/does this affect our unity?
- II. **Body (5 min. for each spouse)**
  - A. How have we as a couple experienced God? Tell honestly the difficulties, struggles, joys and insights you have experienced in God as a couple.  
Example: Nature, praying together, parenthood, facing limitations, sexual intercourse, death, shared meals, liturgy, coincidences, enthusiasm ("God within"; When enthused about our relationship, God is present), other.
    - B. What are my feelings about this? How does it affect us as a couple?
    - C. When were there times that we didn't feel God's presence, but later realized He was there all along?  
Share an experience of feeling abandoned by God as a couple, but seeing wisdom of His plan in retrospect. What did I feel then and how do I feel now about this? How has this affected our faith?
- III. **Conclusion (3 min. for each spouse)**

We're in a process of growing in our relationship with God.

  - A. What awareness do I have of God in our marriage now?
  - B. What does the term "letting go and letting God" mean to me as we face our inadequacy of dealing with life? How have we "let go and let God" or not "let go and let God" after working out a problem to the best of our ability? If not, how could we live this idea?