



Love isn't Love Until You Give it Away

Purpose of Presentation:

Marriage Encounter has given us a wonderful feeling of love; we have discovered ourselves and our spouse through dialogue. It is important that as a couple we reach out to others and share our love. The purpose of this talk is to view our commitment to Marriage Encounter and discover how our couple power can reach out to others.

Preparation for Meeting By Presenting Couple:

A. The first step in preparing a talk for your presentation is to dialogue on the following questions. These questions may also be given to the group a week before your group's meeting.

1. *What feelings and needs prompted us to make a Marriage Encounter?*
2. *How do I feel when the weekend team shared their love with me?*
3. *What feelings prevent me from sharing my love?*
4. *How do I feel when I can share myself with others?*

B. Use the outline to organize the feeling and experiences you have discovered in your dialogue.

C. When writing your talk use feeling and experiences from your own marriage to make your talk real and belonging only to you. Make your examples simple.

D. Remember that the most important part of the talk is you! and what you share of yourself and your feelings. you are open and honest your talk will be terrific!

E. Limit your talk to 20 minutes.

OUTLINE OF TALK

I. Introduction: (*Suggested time: 3 min., each spouse.*)

A. Explain the purpose, drawing from the statement of purpose as given in "purpose" above.

B. Husband and wife should both share their feelings about why they are giving this talk.

1. *Why did we make a Marriage Encounter?*

Marriage Encounter

II. Body of Talk: (Suggested time: 5 min., each spouse.)

- A. Husband and wife each relate examples of not listening, as well as listening to each other.
- B. Relate listening situations with God, or the lack of them.
- C. Present examples of non-verbal listening.

III. Conclusion: (Suggested time, 3 min. for each spouse)

- A. Explain the necessity of establishing some form of dialogue.
- B. Indicate any growth, peace, or understanding realized through effective listening.

The Meeting

Dialogue Question: How do I feel about written reflection?

Sharing Question: Ask couples to share feelings about the 10/10 technique as a tool for good listening.

Suggested Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:13-15 (Parable of the Seed); Colossians 3:12-15 (The Practice of Virtues).

Prayer to be a Better Listener

We do not really listen to each other, God, at least not all the time. Instead of true dialogue, we carry on two parallel monologues. I talk. My companion talks. But what we are really concentrating on, is how to sound good, how to make our points strongly, how to outshine the person with whom we are talking. Teach us to listen as your Son listened to everyone who spoke with him. Remind us that, somehow you are trying to reach us through our partner in conversation. Your truth, your love, your goodness are seeking us out in the truth, love and goodness being communicated. When our words are harsh, hostile, angry, we convey the very opposite of those qualities. Teach us to be still, Lord, that we may truly hear our brothers and sisters - and, in them, you. Amen