



Priorities

Purpose of Presentation:

To explore our attitudes and feelings about what takes prior right in our lives; to investigate the change of priorities as one grows and changes personally, and in our marriage; to examine what I and we would like to be, do, become.

Preparation for Meeting by Presenting Couple:

A. Do your personal reflection and dialogue on the following questions:

1. *What does the word "priority" mean to me?*
2. *What are the three most important things in my life now? In the past? For the future?*
3. *How do I feel about establishing priorities in my life and making a commitment to them?*
4. *What do I think forms or develops priorities?*
5. *What are our couple priorities?*

6. *What are false priorities and which do I have?*
7. *What do we give up for moral priorities?*
8. *How do I feel when my actions and priorities are inconsistent with each other?*
9. *What priority does prayer have in my life?*
10. *What priority does 10/10 have in my life?*
11. *How do I feel about priorities I'm forced into?*

B. Telephone questions 1, 3 and 4 to your contact and host couples in advance, so that they can phone them to couples in your Circle to dialogue on before the meeting.

C. When writing your talk use feelings 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. If

Marriage Encounter



you are open and honest your talk will be terrific! Limit your talk to 20 minutes.

OUTLINE OF TALK

I. Introduction: *(Suggested time, 2 min. each spouse)*

A. State "purpose" as explained above.

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

A. Present your definition of priorities and some of the priorities upon which you will expand later in the talk.

B. Discuss types of priorities.

1. *Involuntary: Those over which we have no control. Give no control. Give examples from your own life.*

2. *Discretionary: Those we establish by personal choice. Give examples from your own life.*

3. *Consider examples in the areas of occupation, avocation, spouse, religion, social.*

C. Consider what factors contribute to establishing priorities, i.e. traditions, maturity, feelings, love, environment, social mores.

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

A. Discuss ways of establishing and maintaining worthwhile priorities?

B. Give examples of improvement of priorities in your life.

The Meeting

Dialogue and Sharing Question: How do I feel when my actions and priorities are inconsistent with each other?

Suggested Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:19-25 and 33-34