

## **PART ONE**

### *Childhood*

#### **“What I know I learned from My Dad”**

1. What influence has your husband’s father had on his life? How do you feel it has affected him, your marriage, his parenting, and his spiritual life?
2. What are some of the things that your husband learned from his father? (If you aren’t sure, ask him.)

*What it means to be a man.*

*How to treat a man.*

*A Strong Work Ethic*

*Common Sense*

*Value System*

*Integrity*

*Spiritual Heritage*

3. The writer suggests there are some relationships within the family that you should look at if you want to know how your fiancé will treat you in marriage, what are they?

*How his father treats his mother.*

*How He treats his mother.*

### *Significance*

#### **What is it that your husband wants?**

1. Why does your husband put so much time, effort and energy into an 8-week sales contest or perform great feats to win top awards, hang them up in a prominent place and take it with him from job to job?

*He is searching for significance.*

2. What did Victor Frankl, survivor of four Nazi concentration camps, say about man’s search for meaning? What did he mean by it? How important is this to *your* husband?

*It is the primary motivator in his life.*

3. On the list of man's greatest needs found on page 35, what are your husband's three greatest needs?

4. What are some of the ways men go about satisfying this need for significance?

*Financial independence*

*Business success*

*Public Speaking*

*Raising his children*

*Work for his church*

5. The message of the book of Ecclesiastes is clear, that "apart from God life has no meaning". What is the writer trying to get through to us?

*The world and all its wealth, prestige and success cannot bring significance.*

6. If a man has to make a sacrifice somewhere, usually the last thing he will sacrifice is his job. Do you understand this? Do you agree with this? Do you deal with this in your home?

### ***Obstacles***

#### **What's Troubling Your Husband?**

1. How can a man get exactly what he wanted and not be happy?

2. Is your husband tired – mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually?

3. Why do men strive to put a good face on things at the same time their lives are coming unglued?

4. What happens to a man that discovers that he has given the best years of his life to his career?

## ***Pressure***

### **Understanding the Pressure Your Husband Feels**

1. Of the “5 thorns” (time, money, debt, work, and people) that put pressure on your husband, what is the greatest thorn in *your husband’s* flesh?
2. How can you relieve some of the pressure he feels from time, money, debt, work, or people? How do you add to it?

## ***Work***

### **Why Men Are Preoccupied with Work?**

1. Why do you believe work is often man’s most “comfortable activity”?
2. Why does the writer say a man finds it easier to go to work than to come home? Is this the case in your home, why or why not?
3. What does “identity” have to do with your husband’s work?
4. How can you help your husband to reevaluate his priorities ***without*** nagging at him?

## ***Temptation***

### **The Six Persistent Temptations Men Struggle With**

1. Women tend to flee temptation, what do men do?  
  
*Slowly crawl away and hope temptation will overtake them*
2. Women are naturally drawn to an intimate love relationship. How do men get it?  
  
*It must be learned.*
3. How did you feel about the statement “A man who says that he doesn’t struggle with sexual temptation is either lying or he isn’t heterosexual.” (*Or is dead!*)

4. As a wife, our greatest challenge is to help our husband resist these temptations. What questions are we to ask him to help us understand what temptations he faces on a regular basis? Does this make you feel uncomfortable?

## **PART TWO**

### ***Companionship***

#### **What a Husband Needs from His Wife**

1. You are the only “real friend” your husband has. How good of a friend are you?
2. Who is the only one that can meet his God-given need for companionship?
3. In which areas have you given your husband the greatest support?

### ***Physical Intimacy***

#### **What Else a Man Needs from His Wife**

1. Explain how touch converts potential love into actual love.
2. Do you see sexual intimacy as a gift?
3. What did you learn about how YOU are “wired” for sex?
4. What did you learn about how YOUR HUSBAND is “wired” for sex?

### ***Communication***

#### **What Men Want to Express But Find Difficult**

1. What are the two greatest complaints from women about their husbands?

*They don't talk.*

*They don't listen.*

2. List the five stages of communication

*Courtship*

*Honeymoon*

*Building*

*Empty Nest*

*Widow/Widower*

3. Why do husbands withdraw from conversations with their wives?
4. How can you learn to love your husband and his differences?
5. How would you rate your communication at this point in your marriage? What can **you** do to improve it?

### ***Resolving Conflict***

#### **Help Around the House and Other Sore Spots**

1. According to the writer, men tend to avoid, explode, perpetuate, or resolve conflict. What is your husband's current tendency? (This will not be shared with the group.)
2. Which of the suggestions offered to biblically resolve conflict do you find most difficult? Which to you find most beneficial?
3. Remember a time when you spoke "hurtful words that were like poison-tipped arrows" to your husband. With remorse in your heart, ask God to forgive you and if you haven't yet done so, ask your husband to forgive you.

### ***Appearance***

#### **Why a Man Wants His Wife to Look Good**

1. What does a man's wife's appearance reflect about him?

*His judgment / Pride*

2. What should husbands and wives be able to expect from each other in the area of physical appearance?
3. Are you willing to “hear” your husband in the area of your appearance, and are you willing to make appropriate changes if necessary?

### ***Fathering***

#### **Your Husband’s Changing View of Being a Dad**

1. Can a man be a good father, if he did not have a “good father”?
2. How involved should a father be in the lives of his children?
3. Of the two problems of fathering today, is (1) a lack of structure or (2) too much structure the bigger problem in your home?
4. The writer encourages us to “discern how much we can expect our husband to realistically do, then help him to balance all the possibilities. How can you do this for your husband?

## **PART THREE**

### **Hard Years**

#### **Living with a Difficult Husband**

1. While husbands, and wives, can all be difficult from time to time, what is the defining difference described by the writer?

*“After repeated, humble attempts by his wife to correct, do the difficulties continue?”*

*“If a husband would be embarrassed for people to know how he treats his wife, he’s difficult.”*

2. Difficult husbands can use *anger or withdrawal, verbal or nonverbal, and aggressive or passive*. Out of these four characteristics come five types of behavior, what are they?

*Browbeaters*  
*Whiners*  
*Neglecters*

*Pouters*  
*Abusers*

3. What is the key ingredient for change to take place in the life of a “difficult husband”? What part does the wife play in bringing about this change?

*A Spiritual commitment*

*Patience, love and prayer!*

### ***Perspective***

#### **Why Your Husband May Not Be As Bad As You Think**

1. How dangerous is it for wives to focus on the “small slice of our relationship that is NOT WORKING well, and not enough on the part that is working well?
2. Do you tend to remember the “good things you do” but forget the “good things your mate has done”? List some good things he has done here.
3. How do “overly high expectations” set your husband up for failure, and you up for disappointment? Are you guilty of this?

### ***Golden Years***

#### **Preparing for Winter**

1. One day you will all look back on your marriage and the family you created. Will you have tears of pride and joy, or tears of sorrow and regret?
2. What can you begin to do today to eliminate the possibility of massive regrets in the future?
3. What are the four key changes husbands want to make in their relationships with their wives to prepare for winter?  
  
*More time                      Less pressure                      Enough money                      Best friend*
4. Are you willing to invest the time and emotional energy that it will take to make your marriage an award-winning relationship?