



# Tools For Men

## *The Art of Marriage*

### **Purpose**

To help you and your wife discuss the purpose and challenges of marriage

### **Advance Preparation**

- Schedule a dinner or coffee date
- Each spouse should listen to the 30 minute *The Art of Marriage* presentation for download at [cottonwoodcreek.org/faithathome](http://cottonwoodcreek.org/faithathome).
- Each spouse should spend a few minutes writing down answers to the questions on the reverse side.

### **During The Date**

- Spend 15 minutes discussing your answers.
- Each of you pray this brief prayer aloud...

*Father, give me the grace to treat (spouse's name) as a gift from you and to become the gift you want me to be.*

## **Affirming Your Spouse As God's Gift**

What are some of the qualities that first attracted you to your spouse, or that you now appreciate? (Mark all that apply.)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pays attention to detail            | <input type="checkbox"/> Looks good in jeans                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remains calm in tense situations    | <input type="checkbox"/> Looks good out of jeans             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Likes to have fun                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Loves to be spontaneous             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is well organized                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Can really throw a party            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stays very focused on task          | <input type="checkbox"/> Gives generously                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loves spending time with people     | <input type="checkbox"/> Seemed he/she would be great parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good at launching projects          | <input type="checkbox"/> Gives wise counsel                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to work through disagreements | <input type="checkbox"/> Is easy to please                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expresses feelings well             | <input type="checkbox"/> Works hard                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Likes to talk                       | Other: _____   |

## **How Your Marriage Tells The Truth**

Every marriage is intended to reflect the living reality of the gospel. Check the ways you think your relationship tells the truth about God. Circle items where your marriage may be vulnerable to the enemy of marriage.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrificing for one another           | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful to marital vows         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two made one in physical intimacy     | <input type="checkbox"/> Intimate rather than isolated    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Each trying to meet the other's needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Loving/Cherishing one another    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forgiving one another                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Honoring/respecting one another  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open to the blessing of children      | <input type="checkbox"/> Partners rather than competitors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giving love to children               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing laughter and fun         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasing one another sexually         | Other: _____  |

Each share one small step you can take to make your marriage a better picture of the gospel in the next 30 days: