



Happy Wife, Happy Life

Focus A great marriage is one in which the needs of each spouse are recognized and met by the other in a biblical way.

Open What is your favorite romantic movie (“chick-flick”)? Why?

Read God designed marriage to be a reflection of His image on earth. The Bible tells husbands to love their wives “as *Christ loves the Church*” and to lay down their lives for her (Ephesians 5:25–29). Part of laying down one’s life for another is to recognize and honor their needs and desires, especially when they are different than yours.

It is important for a husband to communicate with his wife in a loving and connecting way. She also needs and wants him to lead her lovingly, especially in spiritual matters, the children and romance. A woman’s foremost need is for security. When husbands nourish and cherish their wives just as Jesus nourishes and cherishes His Church, the result is a happy, secure, honoring wife.

- Talk**
1. Think about a couple who have been married for a long time that you believe have a happy, biblical marriage. What do you think makes their marriage great?
 2. [Men] Do you tend to be a person of few words or many words? How has this affected your marriage?

3. [Women] What is something your husband has done that made you feel cherished/special? What was it about what he did or said that made you feel that way?
4. Leadership is not domination, but taking initiative. What does taking initiative communicate to those you are leading (in marriage, parenting or at work)? What does dominant leadership communicate? What about passivity?
5. Why is praying together such a powerful thing in marriage? Why is it more powerful when the husband leads the way?

Live

1. [Men] What do you appreciate most about your wife? What are one or two ways that she has helped you or affected you in a positive way?
2. Pair off as couples. Husbands, take a minute or two to encourage your wife. Tell her one or two things that you love about her.

Pray

Thank God for your spouse and your marriage. Ask Him to show both of you how to recognize and meet your spouse's needs more readily and willingly. Thank Him that *"two are better than one"* and ask Him to work in and through your marriages in a more powerful way.