

Study Guide for Teams of Our Lady

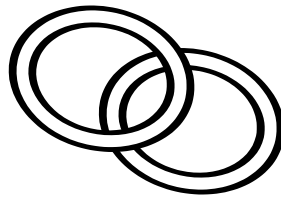
using

SIX DATES *for Catholic Couples*

By John and Teri Bosio

Based on John Bosio's book

Happy Together: The Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage



*The goal of this *Six Dates* Teams Study is two-fold: to encourage “Date Nights” and to aid couple unity through study of John Bosio’s book, Happy Together. Each month you are invited to schedule a date with your spouse and either before, during or after your date share on the assigned material.

The amount and type of assigned material varies, some comes from Date Handouts, some from the book. The specific questions you choose to share on your date night is up to you and your spouse. What answers you turn in to your Discussion Couple is also up to you and your spouse and Team. One recommendation for Team sharing is for each couple to turn in: *Three things that impacted us most from this month’s study*. This may vary from couple to couple and be taken from any of the sources: the reading material, reading reflection questions, date, or Date Handout. Enjoy!

For more information on SIX DATES *for Catholic Couples*:
www.happy-together.net
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This Study Guide, while not an official Teams of Our Lady document,
was compiled by Kingwood, TX, Team 12 to assist other Teams
May 2012

For more information on Teams of Our Lady:
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www.teamsofourlady.org

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MEETING ASSIGNMENTS

- ♥ Before Meeting One: Read Happy Together Intro page 1, *I Want My Own Way!*

- ♥ Meeting One: Teams Study Guide page 1, *Once Upon A Time*, Video #1
Assignment: Date 1 & Date 1 Handout, *Once Upon A Time*

- ♥ Meeting Two: Teams Study Guide page 7, *Marriage Is...*, Video #2
Assignment: Chapters 1 & 2,
What Do You Believe & Once Upon A Time
Reflection Questions pages 15 & 30
Date 2 & Date 2 Handout, *Marriage Is...*

- ♥ Meeting Three: Teams Study Guide page 13, *What Keeps You Together?* Video #3
Assignment: Chapter 3, *What Keeps You Together?*
Reflection Questions page 42
Date 3 & Date 3 Handout, *What Keeps You Together?*

- ♥ Meeting Four: Teams Study Guide page 19, *What About Me?* Video #4
Assignment: Chapter 4, *What About Me?*
Reflection Questions page 57
Date 4 & Date 4 Handout, *What About Me?*

- ♥ Meeting Five: Teams Study Guide page 25, *The Blueprint of Love*, Video #5
Assignment: Chapters 5 & 6
I Welcome and Accept You & I Am Attentive and Always Truthful
Reflection Questions pages 71 & 87
Date (No Handout)

- ♥ Meeting Six: Teams Study Guide page 29, *Blueprint of Love cont.*, No Video
Assignment: Chapters 7 & 8, *I Make Room for You & I Forgive You*
Reflection Questions pages 100 & 115
Date (No Handout)

- ♥ Meeting Seven: Teams Study Guide page 33, *Blueprint of Love cont.*, No Video
Assignment: Chapters 9 & 10
Comfort and Help Heal & I Am At Your Service
Reflection Questions pages 127 & 141
Date 5 & Date 5 Handout, *The Blueprint of Love*

- ♥ Meeting Eight: Teams Study Guide page 39, *Where Do I Find the Courage?* Video #6
Assignment: Chapter 11, *Where Do I Find the Courage & Conclusion pg 158*; Reflection Questions page 156
Date 6 & Date 6 Handout, *Where Do I Find the Courage*
Note: This is the final group meeting.
The last assignment is shared only with spouse.

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Meeting 1: Once Upon A Time

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather ...

We thank you, O God, for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you especially for our spouses and for the gift that we are to each other. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

We read from the Bible about God's love story with humanity, which began at creation and was strengthened in his covenant with Abraham. *Pause*

A reading from the Book of Genesis (12:1-2, 4; 15:4-6; 17:1-2, 4, 9).

The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you." Abram went as the LORD directed him. Then the word of the LORD came to him. He took him outside and said: "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said: "I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless. Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly. My covenant with you is this: you are to become the father of a host of nations." God also said to Abraham: "On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages."

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray: O God, through the story of your love for us you help us to understand who you are, and who we are. Be with us today, Lord, as we remember our own love story. Help us see that through our love for each other we play a role in your love story. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, “Lord hear our prayer” at the end of each person’s turn

PSALM 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. (2a) I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall be ever in my mouth.

Let my soul glory in the Lord;

the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

Glorify the Lord with me,

let us together extol his name.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me

and delivered me from all my fears.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.

When the poor one called out, the Lord heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Taste and see how good the Lord is;
blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

DEEP POOLING

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

- >Regular Reading of the Word of God
- >Daily Period of Meditation
- >Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer
- >Monthly Sit-Down
- >Rule of Life
- >Yearly Retreat

(approx. 30 min)

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC & VIDEO (approx. 30 min)
Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing; Meeting 1, general thoughts on book

- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >**Show SIX DATES video #1 (12 min)**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (approx. 10 min)

PRAY MAGNIFICAT TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

Date 1 & Date 1 Handout, *Once Upon a Time*

For additional information, Date Handouts or to order books or DVD's go to:
www.happy-together.net.

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Meeting 2: Marriage Is...

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather ...

We thank you, O God, for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you especially for calling us to marriage. Through it we become Sacraments of your love, co-creators with you, and nurturers of life. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

We read from the Gospel of John about Jesus' presence at the Wedding at Cana where he helped a married couple. *Pause*

A reading from the Gospel of John (2:1-11).

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six, stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from ... the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and

then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray: O God, like the couple at Cana we are in need of your help. Too often in our marriage we run short on patience, honesty, generosity, humility to admit our faults, compassion, and willingness to forgive each other. Help us to remember that Jesus, your Son is always present in our marriage. Jesus, Son of God, help us transform our shortcomings into strengths, so that our love for each other becomes a sacrament of your divine love. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, "Lord hear our prayer" at the end of each person's turn

PSALM 33:12 and 18, 20-21, 22

R. (5b) The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,

the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

But see, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him,

upon those who hope for his kindness.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Our soul waits for the Lord,
who is our help and our shield,
For in him our hearts rejoice;
in his holy name we trust.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

DEEP POOLING

(approx. 30 min)

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

- >Regular Reading of the Word of God
- >Daily Period of Meditation
- >Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer
- >Monthly Sit-Down
- >Rule of Life
- >Yearly Retreat

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC & VIDEO (approx. 30 min)

Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing

- >Written responses are returned to couples prior to discussion
- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >**Show SIX DATES video #2 (12 min)**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(approx. 10 min)

PRAY *MAGNIFICAT* TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

Chapters 1 & 2, *What Do You Believe & Once Upon A Time*

Reflection Questions pages 15 & 30

Date 2 & Date 2 Handout, *Marriage Is...*

For additional Date Handouts or to order books or DVD's go to: www.happy-together.net.

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Meeting 3: What Keeps You Together?

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather

We thank you, O God for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you especially for the gift of marriage. Our marriage is a treasure to be cherished and protected. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

We read from the New Testament that the Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure. *Pause*

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (13:44).

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray:

O God, you have given us in marriage a great treasure. Help us remember how precious our relationship is. Help us grow in it by being attentive to each other, caring for each other, being honest with each other, making each other our priority, sacrificing for the sake of our marriage, forgiving, and serving each other. With your help, O God, our marriage treasure will become a clearer reflection of your love – to our family and to the members of our community. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, “Lord hear our prayer” at the end of each person’s turn

PSALM 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

R. (see 1a) Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are you who fear the Lord,

who walk in his ways!

For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;

blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine

in the recesses of your home;

Your children like olive plants

around your table.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Behold, thus is the man blessed

who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion:

may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem

all the days of your life.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

DEEP POOLING

(approx. 30 min)

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

- >Regular Reading of the Word of God
- >Daily Period of Meditation
- >Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer
- >Monthly Sit-Down
- >Rule of Life
- >Yearly Retreat

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC & VIDEO (approx. 30 min)

Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing

- >Written responses are returned to couples prior to discussion
- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >**Show SIX DATES video #3 (12 min)**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(approx. 10 min)

PRAY *MAGNIFICAT* TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

Chapter 3, *What Keeps You Together?*

Reflection Questions page 42

Date 3 & Date 3 Handout, *What Keeps You Together?*

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Meeting 4: What About Me?

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather ...

We thank you, O God for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you especially for the graces you give us each day to help us choose love, and resist selfishness. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

We read from Genesis about the choice that Adam and Eve made. *Pause*

A reading from the Book of Genesis (3:1-7).

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad." The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for

gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray: O God, you love us so much that you made us in your image capable of loving. Help us remember that, every choice we make is an opportunity to love. For the times when we have turned away from you and from each other, we ask your forgiveness. Guide us in the choices that we make each day. Help us to overcome the lure of temptation and to do what is good, and right, and just. Open our hearts to welcome your graces so that we can become more each day, the lovers you created us to be. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, “Lord hear our prayer” at the end of each person’s turn

PSALM 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7b-8, 9

R. (see 1) **Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord’s commands.**

Blessed the man who fears the Lord,

who greatly delights in his commands.

His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;

the upright generation shall be blessed.

R. **Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord’s commands.**

Wealth and riches shall be in his house;

his generosity shall endure forever.

Light shines through the darkness for the upright;

he is gracious and merciful and just.

R. Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Well for the man who is gracious and lends,

who conducts his affairs with justice;

He shall never be moved;

the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance.

An evil report he shall not fear.

R. Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear

till he looks down upon his foes.

R. Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Lavishly he gives to the poor;

his generosity shall endure forever;

his horn shall be exalted in glory.

R. Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

DEEP POOLING

(approx. 30 min)

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

- >Regular Reading of the Word of God
- >Daily Period of Meditation
- >Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer
- >Monthly Sit-Down
- >Rule of Life
- >Yearly Retreat

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC & VIDEO (approx. 30 min)

Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing

- >Written responses are returned to couples prior to discussion
- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >**Show SIX DATES video #4 (12 min)**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(approx. 10 min)

PRAY *MAGNIFICAT* TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

Chapter 4, *What About Me?*

Reflection Questions page 57

Date 4 & Date 4 Handout, *What About Me?*

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Meeting 5: *The Blueprint of Love*

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather ...

We thank you, O God for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you especially for the example of spousal love Christ gives us in his love for the Church, his bride. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

In the Gospel of John Jesus tells us that he has given us a model we are to follow. We are to do for one another what he has done for us. *Pause*

A reading from the Gospel of John (13:2-5, 12-15).

So...he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you must also do."

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray: O God, you love us so much that you gave us your Son, Jesus, who died and rose to save us. Give us your grace to love our spouse as Christ loves his bride, the Church. Give us the courage to welcome and accept our spouse in our life, to always be present, to be willing to sacrifice, to forgive, to comfort and help our spouse heal, and to serve, as Jesus taught us to serve. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, “Lord hear our prayer” at the end of each person’s turn

PSALM 145:8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18

R. (9a) The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,
and let your faithful ones bless you.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you
and you give them their food in due season.

R. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

The Lord is just in all his ways

and holy in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him,

to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

DEEP POOLING

(approx. 30 min)

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

- >Regular Reading of the Word of God
- >Daily Period of Meditation
- >Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer
- >Monthly Sit-Down
- >Rule of Life
- >Yearly Retreat

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC & VIDEO (approx. 30 min)

Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing

- >Written responses are returned to couples prior to discussion
- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >**Show SIX DATES video #5 (12 min)**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(approx. 10 min)

PRAY *MAGNIFICAT* TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

Chapters 5 & 6, *I Welcome and Accept You &*

I Am Attentive and Always Truthful

Reflection Questions pages 71 & 87

Date (No Handout)

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Meeting 6: *The Blueprint of Love continued*

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather ...

We thank you, O God for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you for our time together as couples seeking the truth. We especially thank you for your Spirit of Truth that dwells within us. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

In the Gospel of John we are reminded of how challenging it is at times to live in the light. *Pause*

A reading from the Gospel of John (3:19-21).

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for your precious Word. Please help us to always desire the light. Please help us be honest with ourselves when we get off track and wander into darkness so that we may return to you. Give us the grace to accept and assume the best in our spouse. Help us to be attentive and always truthful in our marriage so that our trust and unity may grow. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, “Lord hear our prayer” at the end of each person’s turn

PSALM 25:1-8

R. I wait for you O Lord.

I wait for you, O Lord;

I lift up my soul to my God.

In you I trust; do not let me be disgraced;

do not let my enemies gloat over me.

R. I wait for you O Lord.

No one is disgraced who waits for you,

but only those who lightly break faith.

Make known to me your ways, Lord;

teach me your paths.

R. I wait for you O Lord.

Guide me in your truth and teach me,

For you are God my savior.

For you I wait all the long day,

because of your goodness, Lord.

R. I wait for you O Lord.

Remember your compassion and love, O Lord;

for they are ages old.

Remember no more the sins of my youth;

remember me only in light of your love.

R. I wait for you O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord,

who shows sinners the way,

Guides the humble rightly,

and teaches the humble the way.

R. I wait for you O Lord.

DEEP POOLING

(approx. 30 min)

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

>Regular Reading of the Word of God

>Daily Period of Meditation

>Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer

>Monthly Sit-Down

>Rule of Life

>Yearly Retreat

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC (approx. 15-30 min)

Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing

- >Written responses are returned to couples prior to discussion
- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >***No Video***

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(approx. 10 min)

PRAY *MAGNIFICAT* TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

Chapters 7 & 8, *I Make Room for You & I Forgive You*

Reflection Questions pages 100 & 115

Date (*No Handout*)

To order books or DVD's go to: www.happy-together.net.

Prayer adapted from *SIX DATES for Catholic Couples*, Copyright © 2010 John and Teri Bosio. Used with permission of the publisher.

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Meeting 7: *The Blueprint of Love continued*

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather ...

We thank you, O God for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you for always being with us in good times and bad and we thank you for the gift of companionship in marriage. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

In the Book of Isaiah we are consoled with the promise of God's great love for us. *Pause*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (43:1-5).

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in return for you. Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you.

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray: O God, how amazing is your love that you consider us precious and glorious. Your love is so great our value to you is beyond price. You desire relationship with us and vow to stand by us in all things. May your great love model to us how we are to love our spouse. Help us to focus on what is precious in our spouse and set aside meaningful time for each other. When we hurt each other, soften our hearts to ask for forgiveness and forgive each other. May our love and kindness grow stronger every day. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, “Lord hear our prayer” at the end of each person’s turn

PSALM 51:11-19

R. Have mercy on me O God.

Turn away your face from my sins;

blot out all my guilt.

A clean heart create for me, God;

renew in me a steadfast spirit.

R. Have mercy on me O God.

Do not drive me from your presence,

nor take from me your holy spirit.

Restore my joy in your salvation;

sustain in me a willing spirit.

R. Have mercy on me O God.

I will teach the wicked your ways,
that sinners may return to you.

Rescue me from death, God, my saving God,
that my tongue may praise your healing power.

R. Have mercy on me O God.

Lord, open my lips;
my mouth will proclaim your praise.

For you do not desire sacrifice;
a burnt offering you will not accept.

R. Have mercy on me O God.

My sacrifice, God, is a broken spirit;
God, do not spurn a broken, humbled heart.

R. Have mercy on me O God.

DEEP POOLING

(approx. 30 min)

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

- >Regular Reading of the Word of God
- >Daily Period of Meditation
- >Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer
- >Monthly Sit-Down
- >Rule of Life
- >Yearly Retreat

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC (approx. 15-30 min)

Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing

- >Written responses are returned to couples prior to discussion
- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >***No Video***

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(approx. 10 min)

PRAY *MAGNIFICAT* TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

Chapters 9 & 10, *Comfort and Help Heal & I Am At Your Service*

Reflection Questions pages 127 & 141

Date 5 & Date 5 Handout, *The Blueprint of Love*

For additional Date Handouts or to order books or DVD's go to: www.happy-together.net.

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Meeting 8: *Where do I find the Courage?*

TEAM MEETING FORMAT

SIMPLE MEAL WITH LIGHT SHARING (approx. 1hr)

>Each person shares one high and one low of the past month

>Others attentively listen (*free from comment, getting up, or passing food*)

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE & PRAYER (approx. 30 min)

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence. *Pause*

+ InthenameoftheFather ...

We thank you, O God for all the gifts you have given us this day. We thank you especially for bringing us together to be husband and wife. We thank you for your presence in our lives. Help us remember you are always with us and are the source of our courage. As we prepare to enjoy this time together we ask you to guide us with your Word.

In the Book of Tobit we have an early example of a couple praying together for God's help. *Pause*

A reading from the Book of Tobit (8:4-9).

Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "My love, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." He began with these words: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.' Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine ... for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age." They said together, "Amen, amen."

TIME OF MEDITATION—a period of about 5 minutes silence

SHARING ON THE MEDITATION—prayerful reflection versus discussion

At conclusion of shared meditation, leader pray: Father of all creation, we praise you. We thank you for giving us each other as companions on our journey to you. Through the wisdom of your Spirit, guide us when we are confused, strengthen us when we are weak, hold our hands and give us courage when we are afraid, and console us when we hurt. Through the example of your son, Jesus Christ, show us the way to love our spouse. And allow us to live together to a happy old age.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

- >Pass card or cross so Team members know when prayer is complete
- >Team may respond, “Lord hear our prayer” at the end of each person’s turn

PSALM 103:1-2, 8 and 13, 17-18a

R. (8a) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,

slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity

to eternity toward those who fear him,

And his justice towards children's children

among those who keep his covenant.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

DEEP POOLING

(approx. 30 min)

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS

>Regular Reading of the Word of God

>Daily Period of Meditation

>Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer

>Monthly Sit-Down

>Rule of Life

>Yearly Retreat

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY TOPIC & VIDEO (approx. 30 min)

Discussion Leaders, 10-15 min sharing

- >Written responses are returned to couples prior to discussion
- >Introduce the topic and have two or three open-ended questions for use
- >Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, direct away from those who tend to dominate discussion
- >Bring discussion back to central theme if necessary
- >Stick to time unless important
- >Let people finish their comments without cutting them short
- >**Show SIX DATES video #6 (12 min)**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(approx. 10 min)

PRAY MAGNIFICAT TO CLOSE MEETING

ASSIGNMENT

This is the final group meeting.

Last Assignment to be completed with spouse only: Chapter 11 *Where Do I Find the Courage?* & *Conclusion*; Reflection Questions page 156

Date 6 & Date 6 Handout, *Where Do I Find the Courage?*

Discuss with spouse how to make "Date Night" a regular occurrence.

For additional Date Handouts or to order books or DVD's go to: www.happy-together.net.

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The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my Savior;
because He has looked upon His
lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward
all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me,
Holy is His name,
and His mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear Him.

He has shown the power of His arm,
He has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones
and exalted the lowly.

The hungry He has filled with good things,
the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel His servant,
mindful of His mercy—
according to the promise He made
to our ancestors—
of His mercy to Abraham
and to His descendents forever.