



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 available for download at centralbcs.org/toolsformen.
- 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? (Circle all that apply.)

Pays attention to detail
Remains calm in tense situations
Likes to have fun
Is well organized
Stays very focused on task
Loves spending time with people
Good at launching projects
Works through disagreements
Expresses feelings well
Likes to talk

Looks good in jeans
Looks good out of jeans
Loves to be spontaneous
Can really throw a party
Gives generously
Is or would be a great parent
Gives wise counsel
Is easy to please
Works hard
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. Underline items where your marriage may be vulnerable to the enemy of marriage.

Sacrificing for one another
Two made one in physical intimacy
Each trying to meet the other's needs
Forgiving one another
Open to the blessing of children
Giving love to children
Pleasing one another sexually

Faithful to marital vows
Intimate rather than isolated
Loving/cherishing one another
Honoring/respecting one another
Partners rather than competitors
Sharing laughter and fun
Other: _____

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