



Week of May 11, 2008

**ARE WE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE  
FOR THE MARRIAGE PROJECT?**

Read through the Projects below to make sure everyone understands what to do, and you can give ideas for date nights if you need some suggestions.

1. Daily Projects: we don't start these until Sunday, May 18.
2. Major Projects are Date Nights.
  - Date #1: Just you and your spouse. You each plan part of the date that the other person would like. If you need childcare, book a babysitter, or if you are going out the same night as another couple, you might be able to share a babysitter.
  - Date #2: Plan a date that you did before you were married. If you are 70+, you might not want to go roller-skating, though!!!
  - Date #3: A double date that the men plan. Are there people in your Community Group that you could go on a double date with? This could be the chance for the men to talk it over after your group. Ladies, no unsolicited advice! Men, that means you line up the sitter too.
  - Date #4: Ladies plan the date. What type of date would encourage him?
3. Bonus Projects: I need to make one clarification. **YOU ARE NOT LIMITED TO ONE BONUS PROJECT A WEEK!** You certainly can be an over achiever in this area, but make sure you are taking time for this each week.
4. Encouragement Covenant: on page 6 of *The Marriage Project* booklet is a contract for you to partner with another couple for encouragement. Read the covenant and see who has already found an encouragement couple. Do you have one already? If not, you may want to partner with someone in your group. Single people should partner together to encourage each other in the daily projects. Before you leave your Community Group make sure you have a plan to partner with someone else.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*LOOKING TO THE SCRIPTURES. The Marriage Project is a series on encouragement. Often we find it easier to encourage our co-workers and even complete strangers than it is to encourage the people under our own roofs at home.*

1. Why is it so difficult to encourage those we love the most?

2. How would you rate yourself as an encourager on a scale of 1 to 10?

How would your spouse rank you on the encouragement scale? Remember it's not about whether you think you are an encourager but whether your spouse feels encouraged.

3. We want to develop the habit of **encouraging our spouse** in practical ways, not just words. Read the scripture passages below to see what God's Word says about encouragement. Discuss how these verses can be lived out in marriage.

- **Philippians 2:1-4**

- **Romans 15:1-6**

- **Hebrews 3:13-15** How is encouragement an antidote for a hardened heart?

### PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other's marriages, and please feel free to be as vulnerable or as vague as you'd like. All of us have room to grow, and your Community Group will do nothing but encourage you. Some of you could be really struggling, really happy, or really complacent with your relationship.
- Enjoy a time of praying for each other.
- Before you leave don't forget to connect with your Encouragement Couple or talk with another couple about a double date or babysitters if needed. Pray for each other's needs.