

## HOW TO WRITE THE PRESENTATION

The DIALOGUE QUESTIONS listed in each talk are for written reflection and dialogue by the presenting couple. Allow enough time to do a thorough job. Once this is done the OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION will serve as a guideline for putting the feelings and thoughts expressed in answering the questions into an honest and open presentation. Twenty minutes is a good time length to work toward.

Make sure there are feeling words and concrete examples in the talk. If there is something you simply can't share at this time, work with the other questions or something that might occur to you because of the topic. These are only guidelines meant to help you look at your vivencia. Use personal pronouns, I, we, etc., and avoid lecturing or teaching. Again, it is the personal experience of what you learned or perceived that is valid in this type of talk.

We, the Image Training Team for Milwaukee Marriage Encounter, will go on record as saying the greatest personal growth takes place when we take on a topic that is somewhat "touchy". We promise growth in confidence and in other areas of your married life as you become a presenting couple.

HDIF - How do I feel?

HDIFAT - How do I feel about that?

HDTMMF - How does that make me feel?

DEATH - EVEN IF I DON'T LOOK, IT WON'T GO AWAY

PURPOSE: Death, as a subject for understanding, is often avoided. Now is the time to examine our feelings about death and to share those feelings with our spouse and others.

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS BEFORE WRITING PRESENTATION:

Before preparing your presentation, answer the following questions in writing and then dialogue on them.

1. Do I avoid talking about death? Why?
2. Do I believe in a life after death? HDTMMF?
3. What would I do if I knew I had one year to live?
4. What would I do if I knew my spouse had one year to live?
5. How did I feel when a special loved one died?
6. What do I remember about death in my childhood?
7. When is death of a loved one easiest to bear?  
Or is it never easier?
8. What can I do for my family to make my death easier for them to bear?
9. How can I prepare myself for death emotionally?  
Spiritually? Financially (i.e. will, insurance)?
10. What do I particularly fear about death? My own,  
my spouse's, others?
11. What would I like for my epitaph?
12. After dialoguing on the above questions, has my  
view changed? If so, how?

TELEPHONE QUESTIONS FOR COUPLES:

What do I remember about death from my childhood?  
Does that have anything to do with my feelings about  
death today?

OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION:

Suggested time for your presentation is twenty minutes.

I Introduction

- A. State the purpose of the talk as given above.
- B. Give the dictionary's definition of death.
- C. If different, give your definition of death.

II Body

- A. HDIF about looking at death?
  - 1. My own death?
  - 2. Death of a family member?
  - 3. Death of a friend?
- B. What do I remember about feelings from my childhood in regard to death?
- C. What are my present feelings about death?
  - 1. My own? My immediate family?
  - 2. Does age of the deceased make any difference in my feelings?
  - 3. Relate an experience about a death that touched me personally.
- D. If I could choose the type of death for myself, what would I choose?
  - 1. Quick? Painless? In my sleep? Why?
  - 2. Knowing about my death sometime beforehand? Why?
- E. How can I best prepare myself for death?
  - 1. Spiritually?
  - 2. Emotionally?
  - 3. Financially?

III Conclusion

Have my feelings about death changed since preparing for this talk? What have I learned? HDTMMF?

SHARING QUESTION FOR THE MEETING (BEFORE PRESENTATION):

What would I like for my epitaph?

DIALOGUE QUESTION FOR THE MEETING (AFTER PRESENTATION):

How can I prepare myself for death, emotionally, spiritually and financially? (Can use handout at this time or have couples take it home.\*)

SCRIPTURE READING:

John 14:1-7

\*HAVE COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING HANDOUT, "INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY FUNERAL", MADE FOR EACH PERSON.