

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?

PARENTS

PURPOSE: To examine to what degree our parents influenced, and may continue to influence, our marriage relationship.

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS BEFORE WRITING PRESENTATION:

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

1. What are the things we see in our parents that we like? That we dislike? HDTMMF?
2. HDIF about my in-laws?
3. Do I think my parents still have some control over me? HDTMMF?
4. Do I have certain mannerisms and appearances similar to those of my parents? HDIFAT?
5. How do I/would I feel if I found out that one of my parents was ill with a hereditary disease?
6. Do I ever think that my parents don't love me? HDTMMF?
7. HDIF when my spouse criticizes my parents?
8. HDIF when my spouse says, "You act just like your mother/father"?
9. What traditions passed down to me by my parents do I treasure?
10. HDIF when I say "NO" to my parents?
11. When can parental love turn into interference?
12. What values passed down to me by my parents would I like to pass along to our children? Why?
13. Would I rather live near our parents or distant from them? Why?
14. Do my parents show favoritism? If so, HDTMMF?
15. HDIF about borrowing money from our parents?
16. How would I react if we had to take care of one of my parents? One of my in-laws? HDTMMF?

17. If your parents are deceased, answer the following question. HDIF about not having living parents?

TELEPHONE QUESTION FOR COUPLES:

Ask them to dialogue on question number one.

OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION:

Suggested time for your presentation is twenty minutes.

I Introduction

- A. State the purpose of the talk as given above.
- B. Each of you can then define what you think is an ideal parental relationship.

II Body

- A. As I look back on my childhood, what sort of relationship did I have with my parents?
 - 1. Name two specific examples of this relationship.
 - 2. How has that relationship formulated my attitudes toward parenting our children?
OR
How has this past relationship influenced my present attitudes and actions toward my spouse?
- B. In our early years of marriage, did I think our relationship with our parents was a positive or negative factor?
 - 1. Do I think they continue to be a positive or negative factor today?
 - 2. If my feelings toward this relationship have changed, why?
- C. If I could change one thing in my present relationship with my parents, what would it be?

III Conclusion

As a parent, or if I were to become a parent, what one thing would I like my children to admire most about me?

SHARING QUESTION FOR THE MEETING (BEFORE PRESENTATION):

Name two traits I picked up from my parents that I am proud to have.

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS FOR THE MEETING (AFTER PRESENTATION):

Give both questions to your Image Group and let each couple decide which question they would prefer.

1. HDIF when my spouse criticizes my parents or says, "You act just like your mother/father"?
- OR
2. What traditions passed down to me by my parents do I treasure? HDTMMF?

SCRIPTURE READING:

Ephesians 6:1-4