

## 5 Different Ideas for Creating the Best Dates Ever - October 2025

LWCC Marriage Ministries Email for Oct.2025 (Extra Email for Oct.)

I hear what you are thinking!!! "Didn't we get our monthly email last week???" And the answer to that is, yes you did. But let me explain - and please, have a good laugh at my expense!

Monday last week I was putting the finishing touches to October's Marriage Email. I ran out of time at the end of the day, so once I got home from the Marriage Course, admittedly, fairly late in the evening, I went back to it and got it finished. At that point my fingers seemed to get a mind of their own, pressed a button somewhere on the console, and the email completely disappeared. I then spent two hours searching through files to see if it ended up in the wrong place, tried a system restore, which then wrecked a few other things, which necessitated an expensive visit to Computer Help. It had gone!!! Then my forgettery joined in and would not let me remember where I sourced the article from, so over the next few days I finished off the article that you received last week and dually sent it out. The next day I found a copy of the original that I had printed out for my beloved to proof-read. Because it followed on from the September Email, I thought I would retype it and send it out anyway. So, I spent a good portion of Friday retyping it, got to the end, and my phone went. I answered it, and as I finished the call, I dropped my phone onto my lap top key pad, and, yes you guessed it - GONE, again!!!! In having a laugh about it with a friend on Saturday evening, he encouraged me to try a third time - so here it is, and I think as you read through it, you'll realize why I decided it was worth the effort.

"I don't have time."

Ever heard this, or, have you ever said it??? It is the answer we hear from so many people. In fact, it's what prompted me to follow up September's email with this one along a similar theme, because we had a number of comments to that effect. There is sadly a pervasive thought in our society today, that says we don't have enough time. However, we do!!! We have plenty of time for the things we put at the top of our priority list. Relationships, work, church life, education, family life, friends, sport, personal workouts and hobbies fill our daily, weekly and monthly calendars. The question is, "*Are we prioritizing the right things?*"

About 6 or 8 months ago, I did a little survey. I asked almost every couple I came in contact with if they had regular Date Time. I asked 33 couples: only 2 couples answered yes. Whilst doing that survey I read the following quote by John Burns who has worked with over 1,000 couples:

**"I've never met with anyone seeking a divorce who has a regular date night. Never!"**

In one sense that staggered me, and yet when we lined it up with our experience of seeing couples over the past 25 years, we realized that as high as 90% of those who came to see us because they felt they needed help, or were in a state of definite crisis, were the same - they were not having regular Date Time. On the converse, we've also never seen anything that has turned sad and almost impossible marriage situations around like some regular Date Time. We can get couples talking, we can introduce them to helpful strategies, we can give them advice, but in the follow-up to our sessions, more times that we can name, as couples have worked with us, it's getting back to focusing on each other in regular Date Time, that has seen the biggest break throughs.

Below you will find 5 different ways to help you develop how to have the *Best Dates Ever*. Some of the ideas and exercises will require you to put forth some effort before you show up on your Date, whilst some ideas will only require that you show up and participate. Whatever the situation you currently find yourself in with your spouse, appreciate what a small minority have found - that through regular Date Time you can take your relationship to new levels. It simply requires that you put aside that pervasive thought - "I don't have time" - and start making some sacrifice for the most significant 'Other' in your world. So, let's begin.

### **1. MAKE TIME:**

The best way to make time for each other is to.....Well.....Just Make Time.

You have to carve out time like you would for any other important meeting in your life. One of the ways I've learned to think about this that has helped me immensely, is thinking back to a season in my working life. I was the regional manager of a large sales organisation. I had responsibility for a sales force of over 80 salesmen and women, their sales supervisors and managers, service department personnel, accounts and admin staff. I think about the most important tasks that helped me every week to accomplish my work successfully, was that I learnt that I had to meet with the most important people in my organisation, weekly. If that was true in developing a successful, smooth running organisation, then shouldn't it be true also, in my marriage relationship? The answer is simply, yes it is. Finding and setting aside time for your marriage, elevates this relationship in your life, and helps immensely in communicating to your spouse that you are intensely interested and committed to them. If you could start setting aside one to two hours per week to commit to being present with your spouse, believe me when I say it will take your relationship to a whole new place.

### **2. WHEN ON A DATE HAVE MEANINGFUL TALKS TOGETHER:**

One of the most awkward moments on a Date with your spouse, is not knowing what to talk about, or being in a place where you are lost for words or unwilling to talk. The silence definitely makes things awkward. Meaningful talking happens when you are willing to push past the uncomfortable, and get to the heart of the person sitting next to you. This really is the first step towards developing emotional closeness and intimacy. But, if you're not a natural conversationalist, it doesn't just happen.

The first key is asking good questions. Sounds easy, right!!! Not really, but it is easier than you think, because the second key is simply preparation. The preparation part requires you to put forth a little effort to come up with a series of good questions to introduce, if and when conversation dies. You might even write them down on a small card you can use as a prompt. You certainly want to get beyond how was your day, so ask your spouse to tell you what the best part of their day was; or try to get them talking about their dreams and ambitions; or how they are finding an activity they are involved with. Ask what brings them joy, or what makes them happy. Ask how you might be able to help them - just make sure though, that you follow that up by doing what they suggest.

### **3. HAVE FUN TOGETHER:**

Can you remember when the last time you had fun together, was? What did you do? What did it do for the two of you, and How did it make you feel? Having fun together reminds you of why you got married in the first place. You begin to find the passion and love you first had for each other, and is why dating your spouse is so important. In fact, there's no reason why having fun can't happen every time you go out together, because it does not require you to be active or stationary. You can have fun

whilst walking or talking, being formal or casual. So let's see if we can come up with some ideas you might find helpful!

Start with a 'Google' search of local activities. You might be quite surprised at what comes up. There's certainly a wide selection of stuff in our region that will ensure variety, but it may take a little thought about how you can inject some fun into the Date. First of all make a rule: talking about kids, work or church is banned on a Date. Also, it doesn't have to be fun all the time, but look at what you can do to inject some fun, as often as you can. Try having a 'See Where We End Up Date'. Make out a series of cards with 3 choices for stage one. Get your spouse to choose a card which will then determine where you are going first; once there, get them to choose another card, for the next part, and so on. Yes, it takes a bit of thinking and organising, but it's a great one for showing your spouse you care enough to put in a little effort, and can be a lot of fun in the process. Get another couple to double date with you both, and share your marriage stories - who proposed to whom and how did it go; how did your wedding day and honeymoon go; share your wedding albums; ask questions like, how did you decide who was going to sleep on which side of the bed. Try playing cards or a board game together for an evening. Write some 'suggestions' on cards, and who-ever loses each round has to choose a card and follow the instructions!!! A few years ago friends of ours spent 3 Saturdays together painting and redecorating their kids bedrooms. While they'd done an odd small project together, they'd never tackled a project quite that big before. Apart from what they achieved, their comment afterwards was how much connecting and talking they did, and what fun it was. Whatever you do, just determine to inject some Fun into the experience.

#### **4. MAKE IT AFFORDABLE:**

Dates are not always formal and expensive. When they are, great! Spend the money, dress fancy, and have a great time. But they don't need to be. Why not set aside a time and stay in your pajamas for most of the day. Get a book on marriage, sit down together and go through it chapter by chapter. One of you read the first page, then the other the next page and so on. Every now and then, ask each other a few questions like: do you agree with that; could we try that; how do you feel about that; would that work for us? It might take more than one evening to get through the book, but it's a great and very affordable exercise. Try giving one another a 30-45 minute full body massage. Go for a leisurely stroll. The key is to remember your 'Why'. Why are you doing this? Why are you Dating your spouse? You are Dating them to get to know them better, and to build up an emotional closeness and intimacy.

#### **5. LOOK YOUR BEST:**

Following our email on Date Time back in March 2023, we had a couple come to see us. They'd been married 27 years and through the hurly burly of life bringing up 4 kids, had lost touch and fallen apart. When they saw that email, they decided to try getting back to Date Time. The husband was very upset when they came to see us because, the third time they went out, his wife got in the car dressed in the same clothes she was wearing when he left for work that morning, including her apron. Her reasoning: "For the third date in a row that's what you had done. You haven't bothered to change out of your work clothes, have a shower or shave. You'll also expect sex later, and it's horrible!!!" Before coming to us, he'd stewed for 10 days because all he heard was "sex was horrible!" It still took us over half an hour to get him to see 'The Point' she was trying to make. (Let me just add - guys, seriously, don't make sex a necessary end to each date!!!)

'The Point' is, Make An Effort!!! Consider each other, and make an effort. When you do, you are letting your spouse know that you still care about them; they are still special in your eyes. The idea is

not to create an oppressive or obligatory atmosphere, but one where you just want to serve the most important person in your world, in the most special way you can. Guys, a shave and after-shave goes a long way! Just saying!!!! Make an effort to look your best regardless of what sort of Date it is.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:**

Folks, Be Creative; Seek to Serve one another; Sacrifice for Each Other; Show them you Love them by being Ready to Talk; Cultivate an Atmosphere of Love and Respect. These are the practises that will help you develop a Dating Relationship that will help you have the Very Best Dates Ever with the most Important Person in your World.

Blessings from your Marriage Ministries Team; Stan & Ronnie, John & Karen.

(Adapted from an Article from Orchard Community Church).