

GREAT DATE ROAD MAP:

Cherish

"Relish life with the spouse you love each and every day of your precarious life..." Ecclesiastes 9:9a (MSG)

Life has a tendency to distract you from relishing, having fun, and cherishing your spouse. **That's where this date comes in, because a good marriage is the result of making good decisions over and over again.** This date is a good decision, and will focus on having fun and cherishing your relationship.

**Follow the directions, and
enjoy being together!**

GROUND RULES

- Take a break from talking about the usual suspects (money, kids, in-laws).
- As much as possible, stay off technology, unless instructed to by this date.
- Relax, reconnect, and occasionally flirt...

GET READY

You can easily go out or stay in. To stay in, just follow the prompts under Cherish Your Food and Cherish Your Dessert, get food to go, and eat at home.

Items Needed For This Date

- Date Night Conversation cards. If you don't have these cards, just use the Date Night Conversations pages instead.
- A few of your favorite karaoke songs
- A copy of this date

I LOVE YOU LIKE A LOVE SONG

While driving to and from dinner, choose some songs that you both like and sing it to each other (or lip sync it).

Regardless of your song choice, have fun being goofy and over the top in the car together.

FOR THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD

Take it to the next level and make a video of your performance. Or, roll down your windows and let nearby cars/people bask in the sounds of your love.

SONG SUGGESTIONS...

- **Sweet Caroline** by Neil Diamond
- **She's So High** by Tal Bachman
- **Hero** by Enrique Iglesias
- **Don't Stop Believin** by Journey
- **Shake It Off** by Taylor Swift
- **Ain't No Mountain High Enough** by Marvin Gaye

CHERISH YOUR FOOD

Who doesn't love and cherish food (smell, tastes, textures, etc...). What if you got excited about your spouse in the same way you did over a favorite restaurant that you have to tell everyone about?

- Ask each other, "What is your current favorite food?"
- If you can find a restaurant that serves both of your favorites, go out to eat there.
- If not, consider getting your two favorites to go, and having a picnic somewhere.

CHERISH THE CONVERSATION

The urban dictionary defines “cherish” as someone who is unbelievably amazing! Cherish begins with listening to and noticing how **AMAZING** your spouse is.

Don't have Date Night Conversation cards?

Instead, use the Date Night Conversations pages. Each, randomly pick 5 numbers between 1-110. Take turns answering questions that match your chosen numbers.

While you eat dinner, use the Date Night Conversation cards (if you have them).

- Shuffle and deal out 5 cards each.
- Take turns picking one question on each card to answer.

Most importantly, enjoy listening, encouraging, and laughing together!

CHERISH ONE ANOTHER

Dr. John Gottman writes, “Without honor, all the marriage skills one can learn won’t work.” To honor someone is to hold them in high esteem.

Take a moment right now on your date to make a social media post. It doesn't have to be long, Maybe just a sentence or two.

In the post, celebrate that you are on a date and share **ONE** reason why your spouse is so special to you. **Honor them in front of all your friends and family on social media.**

CHERISH YOUR DESSERT

Ask each other, "What is your current favorite dessert?" If you can find a place that serves both of your favorites, go there to get dessert. If not, consider getting your favorites to go and eat in the car. As you enjoy dessert, use the Date Night Conversation Cards again!

- Shuffle and deal out 3 cards each.
- Take turns picking one question on each card to answer.

Don't have Date Night Conversation cards?

Instead, use the Date Night Conversations pages. Each, randomly pick 3 numbers between 1-110. Take turns answering questions that match your chosen numbers.

CHERISHED KEEPSAKE

The old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. This is because pictures capture cherished moments in time. With that in mind, it is time to capture the moment of this date...

Below are three funny photo poses. Together reenact each pose and take a selfie together.

For the next month, save one of these photos as your phone background as a reminder of how unbelievably amazing your spouse is.

Feel free to take a normal photo together as well. It will probably be less funny, but you may cherish that one more...



CHERISH DAILY

Traditional wedding vows go something like this, "to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, **to love and to cherish**, until death do us part." Great marriages aren't built on grand gestures, they are built on the small moments of practically living out our promises daily.

What does it look like to **CHERISH** your spouse this week?

Discuss the options below. Suggest **ONE** option to your spouse that would help them better cherish you.

- What if I regularly asked, how can I support you today? Or, how can I make your day better? Live out the answers in your relationship.
- What if I took more of an active interest in what interests you. Make a plan to participate in one of your spouse's interests.
- What if I could speak or write more cherishing words to you as a reminder of how unbelievably awesome you are? Find ways to share more cherishing words.
- What if I regularly asked you, "what makes you feel special, affirmed, and/or cherished?" Find intentional or creative ways to incorporate the answers into your relationship.
- What if I cherished you more through physical affection throughout the day? Find intentional ways to show affection in your relationship (hug, kiss, hold hands, snuggle, etc....).

KEEP IT GOING

DARE YOU

Continue to bring the Date Night Conversation cards and/or questions with you on future dates. Each time pick 3-5 questions each to connect, laugh, and discuss together. Continue this habit until you have answered all the questions.

SHARE THE LOVE

Download this date at mynorthside.com/marriage, and share it with another couple.

ROUND TWO

Choose a different Date Night Road Map (see link to the left), and plan another date together.

DATE NIGHT CONVERSATIONS

1. What is your most embarrassing moment? Why?
2. You are writing a book on 3 tips to strengthen your relationship. What are the 3 tips, and what is the title of your book?
3. If you had your own late night talk show, who would you invite as your first guest(s)?
4. What is your favorite thing from each room of our house? Why?
5. What is one thrill seeking activity you have always wanted to try, but are afraid to do?
6. What was the best vacation or trip we have experienced together?
7. If you could choose between being able to breathe underwater, becoming invisible, or being able to fly, which ability would you choose?
8. What have been the Top 3 High Points in our marriage?
9. If you could meet any character in any book, whom would you meet?
10. What is something you secretly wish I would do for you more, but think it would be too selfish to ask?
11. What is the best and worst gift you have ever received?
12. Using your spouse's first name as an acronym, come up with a word for each letter that describes them.
13. If you could visit any place, real or imaginary, where would you go?
14. When do you most appreciate my words of encouragement? What do you enjoy hearing from me?
15. If you could be on any game show, which one would it be? Why?
16. What is one thing you have learned through our marriage that you would want to pass on to another couple?
17. Who was your hero (the person you looked up to the most) growing up? Who is it now?
18. What is one way we can intentionally spend more time together?
19. You just inherited your own private island, and it only has space for one store, one restaurant, and one other establishment of your choice. What 3 establishments are you choosing?
20. Think back to our first date. What details do you remember?
21. If you could travel back in time, when and where would you go?
22. If you created a scrapbook of our relationship's 5 most memorable moments, what specific moments would you put inside of it?
23. What is one scene or episode of a TV show that you will always remember?
24. I'll never forget the moment when you...(share a moment you felt closer to your spouse than ever).
25. You must create your perfect meal including an entree, 2 sides, and a dessert? What does it include?
26. What is your best memory of a time we had fun together?
27. Who is the most famous person you've known or met? How did it happen?
28. Where could we serve God better as a couple? What next step do we need to take?
29. What is one thing you think you can do to get into the Guinness Book of World Records? What do you think your spouse could do?
30. What day of your life would you most like to relive and why?
31. What does your name mean? Do you know why you were given your name?
32. If our home were on fire, what three items (not people) would you try to save?
33. If you had to go on living without one of the following: sight, hearing, or speech, which one would you choose and why?
34. What song(s) makes you think of your spouse when you hear it?

DATE NIGHT CONVERSATIONS

35. What three things would you put in a time capsule that your descendants would dig up in 100 years?
36. The most useless thing in our home is...and it's still there because...
37. Finish this sentence: "One thing I want to do before I die is..."
38. When did you know that I was the perfect person for you?
39. What is the most frightening experience you have ever had?
40. What are some things we could do to celebrate our marriage more often?
41. What is the one music album that you could listen to over and over?
42. One thing my spouse does that makes me happy is...
43. If they made a movie of your life, whom would you want to play you?
44. If you could create your dream date night, what would it be?
45. What was the last thing you saw someone do that really impressed you and why?
46. What is your favorite memory from the beginning of our relationship?
47. Growing up, what costumes did you wear for Halloween?
48. What is your favorite memory from our wedding day?
49. If you had to eat the same food for dinner for an entire week what would it be?
50. When did you first realize that you loved your spouse?
51. What was your favorite book, or story, as a child?
52. How did you know that you wanted to marry your spouse?
53. What hobby did you most enjoy as a teenager?
54. What is your favorite way(s) for me to show that I love you?
55. If money were no object, where would you like to have a vacation home?
56. How would you like me to show you that I am paying attention to you?
57. What is one of the most memorable dreams you have ever had?
58. What are the dreams you have, either for yourself or for our marriage?
59. What is your favorite city? Why?
60. What are you excited about this week? What are you worried about?
61. What is the best news you have heard this week and why?
62. What are some of your favorite traditions in our marriage? Our family?
63. If you could only wear one outfit for the rest of your life, what would it be? Why?
64. If we got matching tattoos, what would they be?
65. What is your favorite type of music? Why?
66. If our first kiss was a scene in a movie, what song would be playing in the background?
67. What is your favorite breakfast food? Why?
68. What is one thing that my spouse does that always makes me laugh?
69. What foreign country would you most like to visit? Why?
70. What is your favorite memory(s) from our honeymoon?
71. As a kid, what was your favorite TV show?
72. What is an inside joke we share that other people would think is crazy?
73. Have you ever been told you look like someone famous? If so, who?
74. What am I doing when you are most turned on physically by me?
75. If you could buy any car, what kind of car would it be? Why?
76. How can I encourage you each day to help you feel special?
77. What is your favorite amusement park ride?

DATE NIGHT CONVERSATIONS

78. What marriages in our lives are worth imitating? Should we go on a double date with these couples to learn more about what makes their marriage work?
79. If you were an animal, what would you be?
80. Identify a good marriage you've seen in your life. What characteristics made it good?
81. What is one talent you wish you had (i.e. singing, sports, drawing, etc...)?
82. When have you felt closest to God? What about furthest? What was going on in your life during these times?
83. What was the best thing you've ever eaten? What was so special about it?
84. What is one way we could intentionally pursue God together as a couple?
85. We just won a game show and a lifetime supply of "something". What is the "something" (you both must agree)?
86. Where have you seen God working in your life this week?
87. What is one thing you learned this year that you wish you knew 10 years ago?
88. What is your favorite Bible verse or story?
89. In a zombie apocalypse, what would be your weapon of choice?
90. What is one area that you have seen me grow in since we have been together?
91. If your spouse was a clown, what would their clown name be, and what act would they do to make people laugh?
92. What are some ways in which God has grown you? How has He done so?
93. If you could turn any food into a healthy food, what would it be?
94. Who are the people in our lives that God might want to impact through our marriage?
95. If you could instantly become an expert at something, what would it be?
96. Close your eyes and think about your spouse wearing the sexiest outfit you can think of. What are they wearing?
97. Describe in detail your most mischievous moment in childhood. What did you do? Who was there? Did you get in trouble?
98. What 3 words best describe how you see yourself? What about how you see your spouse?
99. What is something you love that other people think is gross?
100. What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen in nature?
101. What are the coldest and hottest places you have ever visited?
102. What is the most embarrassing fashion phrase you went through?
103. What do you think is the greatest invention in your lifetime? Why?
104. As a team in marriage, where do you see me step up in an area you feel weak?
105. If you could dress me, what would I be wearing in public?
106. If you could dress me, what would I be wearing in the privacy of our home?
107. What is the most meaningful award you've ever received?
108. What is one wish you secretly have for me as your spouse?
109. If we could take a class together to learn something new, what class would it be?
110. Early in our relationship (the first few dates), what kept you interested in me?