

POST WEEKEND RESOURCE

THE GIFT OF LISTENING

Each month's spiral is intended to give encountered couples a mini effect of the weekend - a boost, a shot in the arm. Through the formal presentation, followed by unmasked 'where you are at' sharing, knowing that we will be accepted with no judgments, each individual and couple is given support, encouragement, and the knowledge that they are not alone in their struggles.

This month's spiral presentation, which is from the sixth talk of the weekend 'Openness in the Plan of God', is based on a very important aspect of our couple relationship - listening. Listening does not come naturally, for it is a decision. When we make the decision to really listen with our hearts to our spouse in dialogue and our daily lives together, we can discover a world of beauty and goodness in our beloved. It is this beauty and goodness that we see in our spouse that makes him or her so dear to us, and truly makes us thankful for the "Gift of Listening."

- I. In what ways don't I listen to my spouse? (H/W)
- II. When I don't listen to my spouse, what opinions and attitudes do I form of him/her? (H/W)
- III. What obstacles do we have to overcome so that we can listen more to each other with our hearts? (H/W)
- IV. When I listen to my spouse with an open heart, what beauty and goodness do I see in him/her? (H/W)
- V. How does dialogue make me realize that I have so much to be thankful for in my spouse? (H/W)
- VI. What other blessings can we as a couple be thankful for? (H/W)
 - a. Children
 - b. Friends
 - c. God
 - d. Others

10 & 10: What specialnesses have I seen in you because of listening to you in dialogue?

HDTMMF?

OPEN SHARING: What does Thanksgiving mean to us now?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

OTHER QUESTIONS:

1. HDIF when you care enough to really listen to me?
2. What obstacles do we have to overcome so we can listen to each other better?
3. HDIF when you don't listen to me?
4. HDIF about our blessings?