

IMPACT OF DIALOGUE IN OUR DAILY LIVES – 37 Min.

OBJECTIVE:

To review the day and heighten the participants' awareness of what they have experienced throughout the day by trusting each other in their dialogue; to instill hope for the closeness they once experienced; to invite them to use dialogue for the rest of their lives and to begin by using their open-ended dialogue to continue what they have started during the day.

GENERAL FORMAT:

To know: that dialogue has been the key to the openness in our communication today; that they can be transformed from the ordinary to the extraordinary; that their relationship will be strengthened and will continue to grow with daily use; the journey they have taken today by review of the Saturday talks; how to use dialogue at home.

To do: share what is happening in their relationship because of dialogue; continue to work at their dialogue throughout the evening.

To experience: the Word of God; enthusiasm for continuing to dialogue.

I. Introduction and Announcements (CL & CS: 1.5 min.)

- A. "The title of this presentation is 'Impact of Dialogue in Our Daily Lives.' The key point is that dialogue is the key to communication. In the workbook we're on page 42. In the last talk we saw that we experience more intimacy by trusting and risking in dialogue. In this talk we will see the impact of dialoguing daily."**

The announcements are covered in the beginning so as not to distract from the mood setting of the Gospel / sharing / song.

- B. Service of Renewal and Celebration with Communion tomorrow**
C. Read or refer to the Communion Statement.
D. Wake up procedure

II. Briefly walk through each of Saturday's talks to highlight the journey they have taken. (CL & CS: 2 min.)

This section needs to be brief. Suggested comments follow: "We've been through a lot today, and we've covered a lot of information. This morning, in Encounter with Self, we took a good and honest look at who we are and how we behave and how that affects us, our spouses and other people around us. Then, in Marriage in Today's World, we learned that we had some information, even though subtle, that told us what marriage would be about. We each brought our own views into the marriage. We covered the stages of romance and disillusionment. We learned that when we make the decision to love, we can break out of our disillusionment and have joy in our relationship. We looked at listening with the heart. We explored the obstacles to our truly listening to our spouses. Then we looked at ways to reach out to one another in areas that we rarely talk about -- to learn more about each other.

"In God's Desire for Marriage we talked about having choices about the way we live. Much of the time we don't take the time or opportunity for those choices. God wants the best for us, but the choice is ours. That brought us into Risking to Trust in Dialogue. In that talk we went over how important it is to develop enough trust in our spouses' love for us. Even when we risk some of our most difficult feelings, we can still experience being accepted and loved."

*This section is not meant to teach them again what we already taught them. **Keep it short!** We just want them to look at how far they have come in one short day, and all of the concepts that have helped them to reach the intimacy they are hopefully feeling right now.*

III. Share how dialogue has been the key to the participants' communications today and what it has meant to the presenters personally in their daily lives. (7.5 min. total)

A. Key to participants' communication today

(LH or LW: 0.5 min.)

Share how dialogue has been the means and method we have all used today, and it has been the key to their openness in their communication and their experience of growth today. Use your own words.

B. Share what dialogue means in your life.

(LH, LW, CL, & CS: 1 min. each)

All four presenters share what dialogue means in their everyday lives. Be sure to use positive personal examples.

This needs to be motivating, not long. If we are not living a daily dialogue lifestyle this will be very hard to do convincingly. Our body language, our words, our voice will all tell whether we believe what we are telling them. This section should come off as joyful and inviting. We want them to see that our daily dialogue is not just important, but fun, too.

C. Invitation to daily dialogue

(LH and/or LW: 3 min.)

*Using the presenters' sharings in B as a **transition statement**, invite the participants to use dialogue daily, one day at a time. Be sure to read the workbook page which describes the WEDS technique so that your sharing of this section will include all of the points.*

1. WEDS technique

Refer to workbook page 43 while explaining the steps of the WEDS technique.

The WEDS information should not be read verbatim from the workbook. There are only 3 minutes to cover everything about dialoguing at home. Use the workbook page to show the key points, and remind them that they will have this at home for reference. Emphasis should be on the "select" section, as participants have already experienced the W, E and D parts of the dialogue process. Simply tell them they have been doing W, E and D all day. Concentrate on Selecting. Tell why it is important to select right away; give them ideas for where to find questions (lists handed out at end of weekend, newsletters, daily events, ME calendars.) Explain the use of a series of questions for more difficult areas. Share some of your own ideas for selecting.

2. 10/10

Explain what we mean by a 10 and 10 and why not a longer time for either. Make it clear that writing and dialogue time does not have to be done together.

3. Prime time

Explain what we mean by choosing prime time to write and to dialogue at home.

4. Eliminate distractions

Share how you eliminate distractions at home such as phone, fax, TV, friends, family, so that your dialogue time is not interrupted.

5. Prayer – love letter – exchange

6. Share how some couples like to pray before writing or exchanging love letters.

IV. Cana Passage -- John 2:1-11 (CL & CS: 3.5 min.)

*The purpose of this section is to give an example of **transformation**. When Jesus turned the water into wine, the ordinary was transformed into the extraordinary. This parallels with the transformations in the marriages of the couples as they witness and listen, in the large group sharing that follows this passage. We, like the people at the wedding feast at Cana, have no wine. We need the wine that Jesus has to offer. Jesus' care and concern transformed a potential disaster into joy and a promise for a better day.*

This section should be brief. In setting the scene, don't take so long that you lose the actual reading of the scripture. The Word of God, on its own, is powerful. Tie it into the parallel of the transformation taking place in the hearts of the couples on the weekend.

V. Open sharing

(LH or LW introduces: 10-15 min. max. including sharing)

Reference how the power of love transforms us. Draw the parallel found in The Prince and the Rose, in the water made wine, or in other examples you might have. Ask the couples to write their answers to the two questions on page 44 in their workbooks. Allow them about a minute writing time and 30 seconds to a minute to share quietly together what they've written.

*Announce that there will be an "Open Sharing." You need to make a **transition statement** telling participants that we're going to change the format, "switch gears," etc. Assure the couples that this is a voluntary exercise. Remind them that sharing is confidential. Our goal is not to put people on the spot, but, instead, to allow the participants to encourage one another. Motivate by telling them that what one person shares could be of enormous help to other members of the group. Refer to your experience on your own weekend if you can.*

The type of introduction that we are looking for is to bridge between what the Clergy has just shared about the transformation in the Cana passage and what we want them to share about how their relationship has been transformed today. An example might be something like: "As _____ has just said, the power of love can transform us. Just as the Prince, in the Prince and the Rose fable was transformed by love and the water was transformed into the best wine by Jesus love, so all of us today have been transformed. We are not the same couple that started the day. Our relationship has been transformed into something totally new. The power that created this transformation is our love for each other. We would now like to give you the opportunity to share something about what has happened to your relationship today because of the power of your love in your dialogues."

The objective here is not to necessarily have many people share -- we want them just to have a taste of what is going on in the room with the other couples. They are not alone in their struggles or their joy of discovery.

CAUTION: *We need to stay within the time allowed so we don't start their open-ended time too late. It is good to end with a positive sharing to leave them on an upbeat note.*

Question: As a result of our time together today, what do I most appreciate about you? Something meaningful that is happening in our relationship because of our dialogue?

- A. Write their answers in the workbook.**
- B. Share with each other.**
- C. Invite to share one or both with the larger group.**

VI. Explain open-ended dialogue. (LH or LW: 1 min.)

Transition statement: tell them we are entering a special time for them. Announce Open-ended Dialogue time. A good way to introduce this section is to transition from V.C. and tell them that they will now be given the chance to try dialogue like they will be doing it at home.

Explain to the participants how to use the evening to continue the work and growth they have started today. Tell the couples that open-ended dialogue refers to dialoguing on a number of questions. Begin with writing a love letter on one question, exchange and dialogue on that question and then select another question. Continue this process several times. Tell them they can go back and finish dialogues that were interrupted. Suggest that they go back to the Areas worksheet on page 32 or the Symptoms exercise on page 23. Share how you utilized the time on your weekend, refreshing yourself and continuing another dialogue throughout the evening.

Open-ended dialogue needs to be introduced in an inviting, exciting way. Remember that the participants are tired, so make the idea of more dialogue something they'll want to do.

VII. Motivation (LH or LW: 2 min.; song 3.5 min.)

A. Motivate the participants to use the evening to dialogue.

The evening will be free of distractions. No one will call them back to the conference room, no phone calls, no work or children interrupting.

Within the time allowed, suggest things they might do to keep going for as long as they can, such as taking a shower, getting some snacks, stopping for a short break or walk, or other ideas as used in the past.

B. Invite participants to return for question and answer period later in the evening.

Allow participants enough time for two dialogues (45 minutes to 1 hour). Give the participants a specific time to return (if they desire) to the conference room for a question and answer period about dialogue. Tell the participants that you will end the session in 30-45 minutes.

*We are inviting them to come back and ask questions after they have tried dialogue on their own. It is important that this Q & A session be **a) brief, b) voluntary, and c) open and relaxing**. This is not the time to give another talk, or to give them all of the points that we used to cover in the old talk that we don't have time for now. Let the couples lead the direction of the questions. Don't be repetitive in the answers -- it is always hard to let one person answer and not jump in with our answer. We don't need 8 answers for each question. It might be good to just let one presenting couple lead this. Since we are **all** daily dialoguing, it doesn't matter which one. The other couples can take care of other couple needs (the ones who are not sitting in on the Q & A) or take care of nuts and bolts so that we are ready for the morning.*

C. “We will conclude our time together tonight with a prayer and song. The question that we will write and dialogue on is found on page 46 of the workbook. The wives will stay in the conference room to write.”

D. Have a closing prayer and introduce song, “ Because You Loved Me,” sung by Celine Dion.

Introduce the song by mentioning the importance of love’s affirmation in our relationship, and how they can use this gift in their open-ended dialogue tonight. If desired, you may suggest that couples leave silently at the end of the song to begin their Open-Ended Dialogue.

Question: What do we most need to dialogue about tonight to grow in our relationship? What are my feelings in this area?

Writing time: 10 minutes Dialogue time: Open ended

(Wives stay in the conference room to write)

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS TO HELP DEVELOP THIS TALK:

1. What do the dialogue books from our original weekend mean to me? WAMFAMA?
2. Have I looked at these books since our weekend? WAMFAMA?
3. What do our daily dialogue books mean to me? WAMFAMA?
4. Do I view dialogue as an opportunity or an obligation? WAMFAMA?
5. WAMF when we miss our daily dialogue?
6. Because of who I am, how do I motivate others? WAMFAMA?
7. WAMF when I try to motivate others?
8. How does my self-image affect my ability to motivate others? WAMFAMA?
9. Do I judge the success of our talks on whether the couples participate in the open sharing?
WAMFAMA?
10. WAMF when I read John 2:1-11?
11. On Saturday night of our original weekend was something meaningful happening in our relationship?
WAMFRT?
12. What were my desires and goals on that Saturday night of our original weekend? WAMFAMA?
13. How long did we dialogue that night? WAMFAMA?