

NO TRESPASSING

Presentation time: 20 minutes
Plus 10/10 and sharing
Designed for sharing circles or renewals

No handouts

I . I INTRODUCTION (1 minute each H & W)

- A. The world's plan for our marriage is for us to be married singles. We are trained to conform to the world's plan. One symptom of this conformity is privacy.
 - 1.Privacy is defined by Webster as "The quality or state of being apart from company or observation: seclusion."
 - 2. Sometimes privacy is beneficial to our spiritual and psychological well-being. Indeed, solitude can nurture growth. But privacy, as opposed to openness, can also hinder and detract from our relationship with our spouse. This kind of privacy prevents us from growing in relationship.

II. PRIVACY AS A HINDRANCE (4 minutes each, H & W)

- A. There are many privacies in our lives that hinder our couple relationship. These are areas where we exclude our spouse, sometimes unconsciously. In these areas we become married singles, such as:
 - 1. Private possessions - my kitchen, checkbook, children, car.
 - 2. Private rights - not to be disturbed at work, making decisions alone.
 - 3. Private time - watching my TV show, my hobbies, etc.
- B. In attempting to identify the private areas of our lives that might hinder our relationship, we can consider times when we're apart from our spouse and judge ourselves guilty for being away. Our spouse's loneliness may have somehow conveyed to us a sense of guilt.
- C. Share several examples of individual privacies and how they affect your relationship. How do you feel about these private areas and their effect on your relationship?

III. STEPPING OUT OF OUR PRIVACIES (5 minutes each. H & W)

- A. When we are open and step beyond our privacies, we can have a positive affect on our relationship.
 - 1.Giving our time to others.
 - 2.Being open in listening.
 - 3. Being generous with our possessions.
 - 4. Being willing to share our feelings.
- B. Share several examples of when you overcome your privacies and how it affected your relationship. Share how you felt about this.

IV. DIALOGUE: When has your openness drawn me out of my privacy? HDTMMF?

V. SHARING QUESTION: Share what private areas you have that affect your couple relationship. Scripture reading: Phil. 2: 1-4

BEFORE YOU WRITE THIS TALK:

Dialogue on as many of these questions as you find relevant. Most of your talk will probably come from these dialogues.

What things do I consider mine? HDIFAT?

How have I kept you in focus today? HDIFAT?

HDIF knowing that I must change myself, not you, to allow our relationship to grow?

How can I be more sensitive to you? HDIFSTWY?

What privacies of mine keep me from being truly open to you? HDIFSTWY?

HDIF knowing that we will always have to work for real closeness in our relationship?
(HDIFSTWY -- How do I feel sharing this with you?)

AS YOU WRITE:

Stay within the time guidelines.

Be honest and real about yourself and your examples.

Personalize by saying "I" or "me" rather than "you."

The little everyday feelings in our lives may bring us closer and be more relatable than the big traumatic ones.

ENJOY!