

BRIDGING PRESENTATION

Tonight we want you to think back to your original Marriage Encounter Weekend. For some of us that may be 10, 15, or even 20 years ago. For others, our original weekend experience was in the last year or two. Whenever our weekend took place we know we emerged from it on Sunday night with a different understanding of ourselves and our spouse.

We'd like to begin our presentation tonight with a question for you to write in your notebook and to dialogue on:

"What impact did the Weekend have on our relationship as a couple? What changes has it brought?"

Give directions.

Write for 3 minutes.

Dialogue for 2 minutes.

Sharing for 10 - 15 minutes from our dialogues.

Most of us agree that we were called to a new way of life on the weekend. Part of this calling included dialogue on a daily basis. Dialogue allows us to stay in touch and focus on each other. For most of us we are more aware of our spouse's and our own feelings and needs when we dialogue. Our sense of spiritual oneness and harmony is heightened.

Our next dialogue question is:

"Where on a list of priorities did I place our dialogue this week? How does my answer make me feel?"

or

"When we dialogue regularly, I feel _____. Describe in loving detail."

Write for 3 minutes.

Dialogue for 2 minutes.

Sharing for 10 - 15 minutes from our dialogues.

We were also asked to live our commitment to this new way of life by being a sign of God's continuing presence and to bring the healing of God's love to others. We can change the world through our efforts to be an open and apostolic couple for our Lord. We have a story we'd like to share with you:

AND THE LORD SAID, "GO!"

And we said "Who, us??"

And He said, "Yes, you!"

And we said, "But we're not ready yet, and we have our work, and our home,
and our activities, and our friends, and we can't leave our kids."

And He said, "You're stalling!"

AND THE LORD SAID, "GO!"

And we said, "We don't want to!"

And He said, "I didn't ask you if you wanted to!"

And we said, "Listen, we're not the kind of people that get involved, and others
have more to offer than we do.

Besides, our family won't understand, and what will our neighbors think?"

And he said, "Baloney!"

AND ONCE AGAIN THE LORD SAID, "GO!"

And we said, "Do we have to?"

And He said, "Do you love me?"

And we said, "We're scared,

and we've never done anything like this,

and we're afraid to speak in public,

and people won't listen to us,

and we can't do it all by ourselves!"

And He said, "Where do you think I'll be?"

AND THE LORD SAID, "GO!"

And we sighed,

"Here we are, Lord. Send us."

(Author Unknown)

Our last dialogue question is:

"How, specifically, can we (or do we) bring our couple love to others? How does my answer make me feel?"

OR

"I experience joy in sharing our couple love through Marriage Encounter when we ____ . Describe in loving detail."

Write for 3 minutes.

Dialogue for 2 minutes.

Sharing for 10 - 15 minutes from our dialogues.

End the presentation with singing "Here I Am, Lord" or "Freely, Freely."

(Note: The process of using short writing and sharing times in dialogue followed by a sharing time was started by the Catholic expression in presentations they called Bridging. The purpose of these presentations is form a "bridge" between the Marriage Encounter Weekend and the M.E. community.)