WORK PRIVATELY

Four Commitments

Read each commitment on your own. Consider what it would require of you, then make these commitments to your marriage. Give each one at least thirty seconds of thought before moving on.

KEEP LEARNING MY SPOUSE

01

I will ask what my spouse sees that I may have missed. I will learn how their background and personality shape their view, rather than assuming my way is better.

VALUE WHAT MY SPOUSE ADDS

02

I will notice how my spouse's differences help me grow. I will thank them for what they add to our marriage and welcome the good that comes through their approach.

SEEK GOD AND GUARD OUR PEACE

03

I will ask God for humility to receive my spouse's help. I will let His Word guide our choices, speak with kindness, and use our strengths to serve Him together.

OFFER MY PERSPECTIVE WITH HUMILITY

04

I will ask my spouse to consider my perspective without assuming it is the only or best way. I will give their view the same thoughtful consideration I ask for mine.

REFLECT PRIVATELY

Before We Discuss

Work on this privately and be prepared to discuss in an upcoming conversation.

BEFORE WE TALK

Answer each question for yourself. Then, with a kind and considerate heart, note how you think your spouse might answer as well. Be prepared to listen and discover whether you understood them correctly.

FOR THE HUSBAND

1. Where does my wife's different approach help me see something I might miss?

2. How could I give her strengths more room to contribute to our life together?

FOR THE WIFE

1. What does my husband's perspective add that I might overlook on my own?

2. Where could I better welcome his help and let his strengths benefit us both?

OUR FITTING COUNTERPART CHECK-IN

Rate each area from 1 (needs growth) to 10 (consistently strong). Star the two that most need attention. Compare your answers without correcting one another.

Area to Consider	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Understanding each other	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Enjoying our uniqueness	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Respecting different perspectives	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Using our strengths together	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Which difference could we better appreciate and put to work together?

PRACTICE TOGETHER

The Ten-Minute Conversation

Sit down together without distractions. Share what you wrote on *Before We Discuss*. Listen to understand, then use the four helps below to guide your conversation.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Name one way your spouse's different approach has helped you. Tell them what it added to your life and why you appreciate it.

01	**UNDERSTAND OUR BACKGROUNDS** How have our backgrounds shaped what each of us notices or values? Name one influence that helps you understand your spouse's approach.
02	**SEE MORE TOGETHER** Choose a plan for your family. What does each of us notice that the other might overlook? How could hearing both views make the plan better?
03	**SEEK GOD'S WISDOM** Ask God for humility to receive each other's help. What does His Word teach us about using our strengths to serve Him and care for others?
04	**PUT BOTH STRENGTHS TO WORK** Choose something good to do together this week. Decide how each person's strengths can contribute, and give one another room to do their part.

ENDING QUESTIONS

What would our marriage be missing if we were exactly alike?

Where have I treated a useful difference as something you needed to change?

What could we accomplish by making better use of both our strengths?

PRAY AND COMMIT

Keep Learning Each Other

UNDERSTANDING. APPRECIATION. PATIENCE. GROWTH.

OUR PRAYER

Father, thank You for giving us one another. You knew it was not good for man to be alone. Help us appreciate the person beside us and receive the help we cannot supply for ourselves. Thank You for the faith and purpose we share. Open my eyes to the good my spouse brings through a different personality and perspective. When I assume my way is best, give me humility to listen. Help me see what I might miss and welcome a strength I do not have. Teach me to offer what I bring with kindness, without taking over or making my spouse feel small. Give us wisdom to use both our strengths in our home and in serving others. Show us where a small adjustment would help us work better together. Keep Your Word before us as we make plans for the years ahead. Help us encourage what is good in one another and be thankful for every contribution. May we honor You in the life we build. In Jesus' name, amen.

THIS WEEK WE WILL

- [ ] Discuss the largest differences in personality.
- [ ] Explore how those differences can help make us more complete.
- [ ] Each try to make a slight adjustment to how we impact one another.

THINGS I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF AND MY SPOUSE