

# GREAT DATE ROAD MAP: CHANGE

Life has a tendency to pull you away from having fun and investing into your marriage. **That's where this date comes in, because a good marriage is the result of making good decisions over and over again.** This date is a good decision, and will focus on having fun and in the midst of change. In a newspaper article from 1967, Howard Whitman wrote, "It takes guts to stay married...there will be many crises between the wedding day and the golden anniversary, and the people who make it are heroes." **Do you have the GUTS to invest into your marriage!** If so, follow the directions, enjoy being together, and become heroes!

## GROUND RULES

- Take a break from talking about the usual suspects (money, kids, in-laws).
- As much as humanly possible, stay off technology, unless instructed to by this date.
- Relax, reconnect, and occasionally flirt...



## GET READY

- All you need is your spouse, this date, a full tank of gas, and some spending cash.
- We recommend putting together a Date Night playlist to listen to in the car.



## EVERYTHING'S ABOUT TO CHANGE

For this Date Night you will regularly change directions as you embark on a 3 course meal (appetizer, entree, & dessert). **THE CATCH**, you have to go to a different restaurant for each course. Along the way there will be discussion and detours to enrich your date and have a little fun.

## WHETTING YOUR APPETITE

It's appetizer time! What is your favorite appetizer? Head to that restaurant. Or, keep it simple by hitting a drive thru for your favorite fries.

**STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE:** On your way, kiss at every stop sign/red light. Feel free to take the scenic route.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** While you eat, discuss some or all of these questions...

- When we were dating, I tried to impress you by \_\_\_\_\_.
- What was one of your favorite things we did as newly weds?
- What has been your favorite date or trip we have been on?
- What has been the best part of our relationship changing from dating, to newly weds, and now a married couple?
- If you had one goal to enrich our marriage this year, what would it be?



**CAPTURE THE MOMENT:** Take a photo feeding each other your chosen appetizer.

# IT'S NOT JUST DINNER, IT'S A PLATE DATE

It's entree time! Where is your favorite place to eat? Head to that restaurant. If you cannot decide then choose a place that provides free chips or bread.

## WOULD YOU RATHERS, FOR WHILE YOU WAIT:

- Take a one-week \$10,000 vacation or go on 10 different weekend vacations that cost \$1,000 each?
- Eat and never gain weight or speed and never get caught?
- Have an average house and a vacation home or your perfect dream home?
- Be forced to sing along or dance to every single song you hear?
- Have a personal maid or a personal chef?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Love is an action word that calls us to serve others in ways we would like to be treated. We can still love even when things change, or are out of our control. Over dinner, discuss some or all of these questions...

- Something I find special about you that not many people get to see is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Which of these Love Languages are most important to you? How can I best speak that language to you?
  - **Words of Affirmation** - I like to hear affirming words
  - **Gifts** - I feel most loved when I receive gifts
  - **Quality Time** - Your undivided attention is important to me
  - **Physical Touch** - Gentle appropriate touch really speaks to me
  - **Acts of Service** - Actions speak louder than words to me
- If I prayed for you over the next week what would you want me to pray for?
- What if we got more intentional about preparing for the known change coming each year? What would it look like to plan a yearly weekend away to specifically discuss the vision and goals for our marriage/family? Discuss how you could fit this into your schedule.



**CAPTURE THE MOMENT:** Take a photo sharing a drink with 2 straws. Or, take a photo pretending to be walruses using straws.

## DETOUR: IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

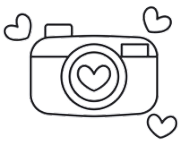
What is a nearby place to buy a \$5-10 (or less) gift? Head there now! Once in the store, go your separate ways. You have ten minutes to find/purchase a gift for your spouse. The gift could be funny, heartfelt, or just something that reminds you of your spouse. Meet back at the entrance of the store or your car. Keep your gift hidden and take it with you to your next stop.

## DESSERT IS ALWAYS A SWEET DECISION

It's dessert time! What is your favorite place to get dessert? Head to that restaurant. Or, keep it simple by hitting a drive thru for ice cream.

**I GOT THIS JUST FOR YOU!:** As you enjoy dessert, exchange gifts. Share with each other all the reasons you picked your gift. Whether it was funny or heartfelt, enjoy the gift your spouse got just for you!

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Many times, changes put romance on the back burner. But, what if romance is something different than rose petals and boxes of chocolates? What if romance has less to do with gifts, and more to do with being there for your spouse on a daily basis. Marriage experts Sean & Lynette Reed define romance as selflessly expressing care towards your spouse in ways they consider loving. **Ask each other, "What is one way I can be for you this week?"** Follow through on each other's answers.



**CAPTURE THE MOMENT:** A wedding reception tradition is smashing cake in each other's faces. Pay homage to this moment by putting some of your dessert on each other's noses, and taking a photo together.

## SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE

While life will continually bring about change, God never changes. He is faithful, true, and creates peace in your relationship. Ephesians 4:3 (NLT) says, "Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace." Remember it takes GUTS (every effort) to have a healthy marriage. Together, run after unity in the midst of change.

**ON YOUR WAY HOME:** Continue the conversation by answering the following question 2-3 times going back and forth, "The thing I love that we do together is \_\_\_\_\_."

**ONCE YOU ARRIVE HOME:** End your date with a classic kiss on the doorstep. The best part is that you're married! You don't have to wonder if you should kiss or not. Go for it! After that kiss, the rest of the night is up to you...

## KEEP IT GOING

**DARE YOU:** Share the photos from this date night on social media, and celebrate your marriage!

**SHARE THE LOVE:** Download this date ([www.mynorthside.com/marriage](http://www.mynorthside.com/marriage)), and share it with another couple.

**SCHEDULE THE LOVE:** Choose another Date Night Road Map (link above), and plan out another date together.