

Great Date Road Map:

PRIORITIZE

A good marriage is a bit like a pet boa constrictor: either you feed it regularly or bad things happen.

Your marriage needs regular healthy meals of relationship building goodness. If not, your relationship will starve. **That's where this date comes in, because a good marriage is the consequence of making good decisions over and over again.** This date is a good decision, and will focus on prioritizing your relationship.

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...

Follow the directions below, and enjoy being together!

Get Ready

Items Needed For This Date

- 2 Pencils/Pens
- A Pair of Scissors
- A Ziplock Bag
- 1 Piece of Paper
- A Medicine Bottle
- A Copy of This Date

Date Night Generator

We all have priorities, even when it comes to the places we eat. These priorities sometimes make it hard to decide where to go for dinner. To help, let's create a Date Night Generator.

1. Take the *Date Night Generator Tickets* (page 9), and cut them into 12 pieces.
2. Divide these pieces in half, each taking 6.
3. On your tickets, write down 3 places to eat and 3 places to get dessert.
4. Create two piles, one for places to eat and one for places to get dessert.
5. Mix up each pile, and then draw one ticket from each pile.

You now have your plan for dinner & dessert tonight!

Save your remaining tickets in a Ziplock bag, and attach it to your fridge with a magnet.

Beyond this date, commit to finishing the combinations left in the bag. That's 5 more dates with the love of your life!

These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things

Many times, our favorite things help shape our priorities. We tend to buy certain brands or types of items over others. Before leaving for dinner, let's play a game all about your favorite things.

- For this game, you will need your cell phones and the *A Few Of My Favorite Things Cards* (page 11). Using the prompts on the cards, secretly write your answers and how your spouse would answer.
- With potential answers ready to go, it's now time to collect your items. Choose one person to go first, and set a timer for 2 minutes.
- That person must search the house and take photos of as many items as possible from the list of how they thought their spouse would answer.
- After each person has completed their search, review your answers and photographed items. Every photographed item that matches your spouse's list earns a point. Only photographed items can earn points, even if you had the correct answer.
- The person with the most points wins! The loser has to kiss the winner and goes first in the *You Know You Make Me Want To Shout* section.

You Know You Make Me Want To Shout

Your spouse needs to know that you love them and that your marriage is a priority. That's why you need to shout it out during your date.

- Choose 1 of the phrases below. During your date, while at a stop light, roll down your window and shout out your chosen phrase.
- Your shout outs must be done at separate stop lights.

Make sure to capture the moment on video, just in case you need a reminder.

Triple Dog

Dare: Shout Out all 6 phrases at stoplights. Or, use one of the phrases and tell your waiter/waitress.

I love my husband/wife!

I am on a date night with the most beautiful woman in the world!

I am on a date night with the most handsome man in the world!

He/She is the cheese to my macaroni and the peanut butter to my jelly!

I love my husband/wife more than the cookie monster loves cookies!

I love my husband/wife more than (insert favorite hobby, TV show, or sports team)!

Prioritizing Priorities

Over dinner or dessert,
discuss the following
questions...

- What were the top 1-2 priorities when you were in the following seasons of life: elementary school, junior high, highschool, and young adult/college? How have your priorities changed since?
- What are the best things about our marriage right now? What is something that has been missing from our marriage this season?
- Marriage expert Jim Burns says, "the key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities." What often takes priority over investing into our marriage? What do we need to schedule out in order to prioritize our marriage? Together, take some time to dream and schedule some specific moments to build your marriage over the next few months.

There's No Time Capsule Like The Present

Making your marriage a priority is more than just this date. It needs to happen throughout the year. You can begin by creating a Time Capsule together.

You will need:

- An empty medicine bottle
- A piece of paper
- A pair of scissors
- 2 pencils/pens

You can make a label for your Time Capsule using the cut out below.

- Cut the paper into smaller pieces that will fit inside your Time Capsule.
- On your piece of paper, write down a few words about how you feel about your spouse right now. It could be heartfelt, encouraging, or funny.
- Fold up your note and place it inside your capsule.
- Leave your Time Capsule out in a place you will see it regularly as a reminder of prioritizing your marriage.
- After 30 days, open up your Time Capsule and read each other's notes.
- Then write new notes and place them into the Time Capsule for another 30 days.
- Set a goal to complete this Time Capsule challenge for an entire year.

Time Capsule

Keep It Going

Dare You:

Post your *You Know You Make Me Want To Shout* videos on social media, and show everyone that you (insert your chosen phrase here).

Share The Love:

Download this date (www.mynorthside.com/marriage), and share it with another couple.

Schedule The Love:

Choose another Date Night Road Map (same above link), and prioritize your marriage by scheduling out another date.

Date Night Generator Tickets

Place to Eat

Place to Eat

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Place to Eat

Place to Eat

Place to Eat

Place to Get Dessert

Place to Get Dessert

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Place to Get Dessert

Place to Get Dessert

A Few Of My Favorite Things Cards

Your Favorite Snack:

Your Favorite Drink:

Your Favorite Article Of Clothing:

Your Favorite Kitchen Tool:

Your Favorite Beauty or Toiletry Item:

Your Favorite Thing In The Bedroom

Your Favorite Gadget:

Your Favorite Item In The Garage:

Their Favorite Snack:

Their Favorite Drink:

Their Favorite Article Of Clothing:

Their Favorite Kitchen Tool:

Their Favorite Beauty or Toiletry Item:

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