

MARRIAGE INTERVIEW

1. One of the best ways to find out about marriage is to talk with people who are married. Select two couples, each one at a different stage in their marriage:

- A. Married 2 years or less, no children
- B. Married 5-7 years with small children
- C. Married 15 years with teenagers
- D. Married 30 years or more, retired

Try to select couples with whom you feel comfortable and who will answer your questions openly and honestly.

2. Use the following two pages to ask the questions given and write their response to each question.

3. **AFTER** the interviews: on a separate piece of paper type a one page reflection of how the responses given by each couple affected your own perception of marriage, marital roles, conflict resolution, how to create a successful marriage, and any other insights you would like to include.

4.

Couple 1:

Ages:

Number of Children:

Ages of Children:

Number of Years Married:

Signatures:

Couple 2:

Ages:

Number of Children:

Ages of Children:

Number of Years Married:

Signatures:

Ask the following questions:

1. How old were they when they married?
2. Do they think that was a good age to get married? Why? Why not?
3. What is the happiest memory they have relating to their marriage?
4. What qualities do they think are most important for happy marriages?
5. What advice would they give to someone who wasn't certain whether to marry a particular person?
6. What is the most important quality for a mate to possess?
7. Has their marriage changed over time? If so, how?
8. Is their marriage what they expected it to be?
9. Have they experienced any crisis in their marriage (illness, loss of work, etc.)?

Did it help them draw closer together?

What was their initial reaction to the crisis?

10. What is the most important thing they have done in their marriage to keep it happy?
11. What ideas have they disagreed on? How did they resolve it?