"Building A House and Home"
Questions – Session 1

LIVING EVERY DAY

1. Would you consider yourself a morning person or a night person?
2. Do you judge people who have a different waking and sleeping clock than you?
3. Are you a physically affectionate person?
4. What is your favorite season of the year?
5. When you disagree with your partner, do you tend to fight or withdraw?
6. What is your idea of a fair division of labor in your household?
7. Do you consider yourself an easygoing person, or are you most comfortable with a firm plan of action?
8. How much sleep do you need every night?
9. Do you like to be freshly showered and wearing clean clothes every day, even on weekends or vacations?
10. What is your idea of perfect relaxation?
11. What makes you really angry? What do you do when you are really angry?
12. What makes you most joyful? What do you do when you are joyful?
13. What makes you most insecure? How do you handle your insecurities?
14. What makes you most secure?
15. Do you fight fair? How do you know?
16. How do you celebrate when something great happens? How do you mourn when something tragic happens?
17. What is your greatest limitation?
18. What is your greatest strength?
19. What most stands in the way of your creating a passionate and caring marriage?
20. What do you need to do today to move toward making your dream marriage a reality?
LIVING EVERY DAY (cont.)

21. What makes you most afraid?

22. What drains you of your joy and passion?

23. What replenishes your mind, body, and spirit?

24. What makes your heart smile in rough times?

25. What makes you feel the most alive?

RELATIONSHIP HISTORY

1. Have you ever felt deeply insecure in a relationship? Were you able to name your fear?

2. When was the first time you felt you were in love with another person? What happened in that relationship and how have you come to terms with it?

3. What is the longest relationship you have had prior to this one? Why did it end and what lesson did you learn?

4. Have you ever been married? If so, are you divorced or widowed? How do you think you handled the loss?

5. If you have a current partner, do they know of behaviors that you exhibited in your previous relationship that you’re not proud of?

6. Do you believe that past relationships should be left in the past and not talked about in your current relationship?

7. Do you tend to judge current partners on past relationships?

8. Have you ever sought marriage counseling? What did the experience teach you?

9. Do you have children from previous marriages or non-marital relationships? What is your relationship to them? How do you see your relationship with them in the future?

10. Have you ever been engaged to be married but didn’t go through with the wedding?

11. Have you ever had a live-in partner? Why did you choose to live together instead of marrying? What did your experience teach you about the importance of marriage and about commitment?

12. Do you harbor fears that the person you love might reject you or fall out of love with you?
GENDER ROLES

1. Are there household responsibilities you believe to be the sole domain of a man or a woman? Why do you believe this?

2. Do you believe that marriages are stronger if a woman defers to her husband in most areas? Do you need to feel either in control or taken care of?

3. How important is equality in a marriage? Define what you mean by “equality.”

4. Do you believe that roles in your family should be filled by the person best equipped for the job, even if it is an unconventional arrangement?

5. How did your family view the roles of girls and boys, men and women? In your family, could anyone do any job as long as it got done well?

6. Have different ideas about gender roles ever been a source of tension for you in a relationship, the cause of a breakup?

PETS

1. Are you an animal lover?

2. Do you have a dog, cat, or other beloved pet?

3. Is your attitude “Love me, love my dog [cat, potbellied pig]?”

4. Have you ever been physically aggressive with an animal? Have you deliberately hurt an animal?

5. Do you believe a person should give up his or her pet if it interferes with the relationship?

6. Do you consider pets members of your family?

7. Have you ever been jealous of a partner’s relationship with a pet?

8. Have disagreements about pets ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship?

MEDIA

1. Where do you get your news (for example, TV news programs, radio, newspapers, newsmagazines, the Internet, friends)?

2. Do you believe what you read and see in the news, or do you question where information is coming from and what the true agenda is?

3. Do you seek out media with diverse perspectives on the news?

4. Have media differences ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?
MILITARY

1. Have you served in the military?

2. Have your parents or other relatives served in the military?

3. Would you want your children to serve in the military?

4. Do you personally identify more with a nonviolent approach, or with making change through military force and action?

5. Has military service or attitudes about military service ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship?