"Building A House and Home"
Questions – Session 3

RELIGION

1. Do you believe in God? What does that mean to you?
2. Do you have a current religious affiliation? Is it a big part of your life?
3. When you were growing up, did your family belong to a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque?
4. Do you currently practice a different religion from the one in which you were raised?
5. Do you believe in life after death?
6. Does your religion impose any behavioral restrictions (dietary, social, familial, sexual) that would affect your partner?
7. Do you consider yourself a religious person? A spiritual person?
8. Do you engage in spiritual practices outside of organized religion?
9. How important is it to you for your partner to share your religious beliefs?
10. How important is it to you for your children to be raised in your religion?
11. Is spirituality a part of your daily life and practice?
12. Has religion or spiritual practice ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?

HEALTH

1. How would you describe the current state of your health?
2. Have you ever had a serious illness? Have you ever had surgery?
3. Do you believe it is a sacred responsibility to take care of yourself? Do you believe that taking care of your physical and mental health is a part of honoring your marriage vows?
4. Are there genetic diseases in your family or a history of cancer, heart disease, or chronic illness?
5. Do you have health insurance? Dental insurance?
6. Do you belong to a gym? If so, how much time do you spend at the gym every week?
7. Do you play sports or take exercise classes?
HEALTH (cont.)

8. Have you ever been in a physically or emotionally abusive relationship?

9. Have you ever suffered from an eating disorder?

10. Have you ever been in a serious accident?

11. Do you take medication?

12. Have you ever had a sexually transmitted disease?

13. Have you ever been treated for a mental disorder?

14. Do you see a therapist?

15. Do you smoke, or have you ever smoked?

16. Do you consider yourself an addictive personality, and have you ever suffered from an addiction? Have you ever been told you have an addiction problem, even though you might disagree?

17. How much alcohol do you drink every week?

18. Do you use recreational drugs?

19. Do you have a medical problem that impacts your ability to have a satisfying sex life (for example, erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation, vaginal dryness, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.)?

20. Have any of these health problems ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship?

RACE, ETHNICITY and DIFFERENCES

1. What did you learn about race and ethnic differences as a child?

2. Which of those beliefs from childhood do you still carry, and which have you shed?

3. Does your work environment look more like the United Nations, or like a mirror of yourself? How about your personal life?

4. How would you feel if your child dated someone of a different race or ethnicity? The same gender? How would you feel if he or she married this person?

5. Are you aware of your own biases regarding race and ethnicity? What are they? Where did they come from? (We aren’t born biased, we learn it, and it’s important to trace where it was learned.)
RACE, ETHNICITY and DIFFERENCES (cont.)

6. Have race, ethnicity, and differences ever been a source of tension and stress for you in a relationship?

7. What were your family’s views of race, ethnicity, and difference?

8. Is it important to you that your partner share your vision of race, ethnicity, and difference?

9. Have different ideas about race, ethnicity, and difference ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?

POLITICS

1. Do you consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative, or do you reject political labels? What was the attitude in your family about political involvement and social action?

2. Do you belong to a political party? Are you actively involved?

3. Did you vote in the last presidential election? Congressional election? Local election?

4. Do you believe that two people of differing political ideologies can have a successful marriage?

5. Do you believe that the political system is skewed against people of color, poor people, and the disenfranchised?

6. Which political issues do you care about? (For example, equality, national security, privacy, the environment, the budget, women’s rights, gay rights, human rights, etc.).

7. Has politics ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?

THE LAW

1. Do you consider yourself a law-abiding person?

2. Have you ever committed a crime? If yes, what was it?

3. Have you ever been arrested? If yes, for what?

4. Have you ever been in jail? If yes, why?

5. Have you ever been involved in a legal action or lawsuit? If yes, what were the circumstances?

6. Have you ever been the victim of a violent crime? If yes, describe what happened?

7. Do you believe it’s important to be rigorously honest when you pay taxes?

8. Have you ever failed to pay child support? If so, why?

9. Have legal or criminal issues ever been a factor in the breakup of a relationship?