

"WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT" MOMENTS

42 Days of Marriage Wisdom Quotes

Instructions for Leaders: Print these quotes on individual cards, place in decorative bags (one per couple), and distribute on Week 1. Couples draw one quote daily for discussion over their morning coffee or evening wind-down.

WEEK 1: BREAKING THE SURVIVAL CYCLE

From Surviving to Thriving

Day 1 - Gary Chapman

"We cannot rely on our emotions to carry us through the long haul of marriage. Emotions change like the weather, but commitment is like a rock."

Discussion: How can we build our marriage on commitment rather than feelings?

Day 2 - Ruth Bell Graham

"A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers."

Discussion: What's one thing we need to forgive each other for to move from surviving to thriving?

Day 3 - Mark Twain

"Marriage makes or mars a man, and marriage makes or mars a woman. The question is: which will you choose to do for each other?"

Discussion: How are we "making" each other better instead of just getting by?

Day 4 - Dave Ramsey

"You can't out-give someone who truly loves you, and you can't out-love someone who is committed to your success."

Discussion: What would it look like to be completely committed to each other's success?

Day 5 - Elisabeth Elliot

"The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian makes me a different kind of woman."

Discussion: How does our faith change how we approach marriage differently than the world?

Day 6 - Will Smith

"You don't try to build a wall. You don't set out to build a wall. You don't say 'I'm going to build the biggest, baddest, greatest wall that's ever been built.' You don't start there. You say, 'I'm going to lay this brick as perfectly as a brick can be laid.' You do that every single day. And soon you have a wall."

Discussion: What's our "one brick at a time" approach to building our marriage?

Day 7 - John Gottman

"Happy marriages are based on a deep friendship. They are based on knowing each other intimately, being well versed in each other's likes, dislikes, personality quirks, hopes, and dreams."

Discussion: What's one thing we could learn about each other this week?

WEEK 2: COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION

From Talking to Truly Connecting

Day 8 - Gary Smalley

"The number one need of every human being is the need to feel valued and loved. When we communicate in ways that make our spouse feel valued, we're speaking their emotional language."

Discussion: How can we make each other feel more valued in our daily conversations?

Day 9 - Steve Harvey

"You have to stop listening with your emotions and start listening with your ears. When someone tells you who they are, believe them."

Discussion: When do we listen with emotions instead of really hearing each other?

Day 10 - Sheila Wray Gregoire

"Communication isn't just about talking more; it's about creating safety so that authentic sharing can happen."

Discussion: How can we create more safety in our conversations?

Day 11 - Tony Evans

"If you want to know what someone values, don't listen to what they say—watch what they do with their time, money, and attention."

Discussion: What do our actions communicate about what we value in our marriage?

Day 12 - Brené Brown

"Connection is why we're here; it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives. The power that connection holds in our lives was confirmed when the main concern about connection was fear—the fear of disconnection."

Discussion: What fears keep us from deeper connection in our conversations?

Day 13 - Jimmy Fallon

"Thank you, cell phone, for making it possible to have an argument with my wife even when she's in the same room."

Discussion: How can we use technology to enhance rather than hinder our communication?

Day 14 - Emerson Eggerichs

"When a husband feels disrespected, it is especially hard for him to express love. When a wife feels unloved, it is especially hard for her to express respect. Either can start the crazy cycle."

Discussion: How can we break negative communication cycles before they start?

WEEK 3: INTIMACY UNLEASHED

Beyond Physical to Soul-Deep Connection

Day 15 - Max Lucado

"A man's heart away from God becomes a desert. A woman's heart away from God becomes a wilderness. Together, apart from God, they become a wasteland."

Discussion: How does our relationship with God affect our intimacy with each other?

Day 16 - Song of Solomon 4:9

"You have captured my heart, my treasure, my bride. You hold it hostage with one glance of your eyes."

Discussion: How can we keep "capturing" each other's hearts after years together?

Day 17 - Kevin Leman

"The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."

Discussion: How does our intimacy create security for others around us?

Day 18 - Juli Slattery

"Intimacy isn't just about sex—it's about knowing and being known at the deepest levels."

Discussion: In what ways do we know each other deeply beyond the physical?

Day 19 - John Piper

"Staying in love is not a passive experience. It is an active choice, a conscious decision to continue pursuing the heart of another human being."

Discussion: What active choices can we make to keep pursuing each other's hearts?

Day 20 - Mark Gungor

"Men, your wife needs to feel emotionally connected to you before she can be physically intimate. Women, your husband needs to feel physically connected to you before he can be emotionally intimate."

Discussion: How can we honor each other's different intimacy needs?

Day 21 - Shannon Ethridge

"Boundaries are not walls to keep love out, but rather fences to keep love safe."

Discussion: What boundaries help protect and grow our intimacy?

WEEK 4: CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

From Battleground to Breakthrough

Day 22 - Tim Keller

"Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it or do anything about it."

Discussion: How can we speak truth in love during disagreements?

Day 23 - Andy Stanley

"Your greatest contribution to your marriage may be your commitment to your own personal growth."

Discussion: How is personal growth helping us handle conflict better?

Day 24 - Maya Angelou

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

Discussion: What "untold stories" or unspoken issues do we need to address?

Day 25 - Rick Warren

"Conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional."

Discussion: How can we disagree without going into "combat mode"?

Day 26 - Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott

"The goal in marriage is not to think alike, but to think together."

Discussion: How can our differences help us find better solutions?

Day 27 - C.S. Lewis

"Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. It is a noble feeling, but it is still a feeling."

Discussion: How can we choose love even when we don't feel it during conflict?

Day 28 - Gottman Institute

"In relationships, small things are the big things."

Discussion: What small changes could prevent our biggest conflicts?

WEEK 5: VISION ALIGNMENT

Building Your Legacy Together

Day 29 - Zig Ziglar

"Many marriages would be better if the husband and wife clearly understood that they are on the same side."

Discussion: How can we remember we're teammates working toward the same goals?

Day 30 - Proverbs 29:18

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Discussion: What vision is our marriage working toward together?

Day 31 - John C. Maxwell

"A dream becomes a goal when action is taken toward its achievement."

Discussion: What actions are we taking toward our shared dreams?

Day 32 - Henry Cloud

"Getting to the next level always requires ending something, leaving it behind, and moving on."

Discussion: What do we need to leave behind to reach our marriage goals?

Day 33 - Joel Osteen

"You're not defined by your past; you're prepared by it."

Discussion: How has our past prepared us for the future we're building together?

Day 34 - Wayne Gretzky

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

Discussion: What "shots" do we need to take together for our future?

Day 35 - Oprah Winfrey

"The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams."

Discussion: What would it look like to live our marriage dreams boldly?

WEEK 6: FAITH FOUNDATIONS

Anchoring Your Marriage in God's Design

Day 36 - Ecclesiastes 4:12

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Discussion: How is God the third strand strengthening our marriage?

Day 37 - Billy Graham

"A good marriage is the union of two forgivers, but the best marriages are the union of two believers."

Discussion: How does our shared faith make our marriage different?

Day 38 - Francis Chan

"True love is not giving someone what they want, but giving them what they need to become who God wants them to be."

Discussion: How can we help each other become who God wants us to be?

Day 39 - Corrie ten Boom

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

Discussion: What unknown futures are we trusting God with in our marriage?

Day 40 - Mark Driscoll

"The goal of marriage is not happiness but holiness."

Discussion: How does pursuing holiness together actually bring us happiness?

Day 41 - Tim and Kathy Keller

"To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known but not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God."

Discussion: How can we love each other the way God loves us?

Day 42 - Mother Teresa

"It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving."

Discussion: How can we put more love into the everyday acts of marriage?

BONUS IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS

Quote Jar Variations:

- **Morning Coffee Quotes:** Draw during morning coffee for day-long reflection
- **Evening Wind-Down:** Discuss during evening walks or bedtime routine

- **Date Night Starters:** Use as conversation starters during weekly dates
- **Car Ride Discussions:** Perfect for commute conversations

Extended Use:

- **Monthly Refresh:** Redraw favorite quotes for ongoing discussion
- **Anniversary Reflection:** Review all quotes on wedding anniversary
- **Small Group Sharing:** Share insights with other couples
- **Journal Prompts:** Write responses in marriage journal

Digital Options:

- Text daily quotes to each other
- Create social media posts with your favorites
- Email quotes to other married friends
- Set phone reminders with weekly themes

Leader Tip: Encourage couples to pick 3-5 favorite quotes to post somewhere visible in their home as daily reminders of marriage wisdom.