



Values and Hopes *survey*

Values and Hopes—A Survey

Go ahead and complete this upcoming survey individually, and when both of you finish, get together and discuss your answers with each other. Here are a few suggestions for your upcoming discussion:

- Identify where the value, hope, or expectation you hold came from. Don't be afraid to ask, *Is this a product of my background, education, culture, or personality?*
- Discuss why the value, hope, or expectation you hold is important to you and how you can express it in a non-demanding way.
- Resolve together how this value, hope, or expectation can be:
 - a. Accepted and met by your fiancé.
 - b. Adjusted so that it is reasonable.
 - c. Abandoned as unrealistic.

This survey and subsequent discussion should help you identify both realistic and unrealistic hopes, values, and expectations. The whole process can also be like mining for precious ore. You may have to move tons of earth to get ounces of gold, but those priceless nuggets are well worth the effort it takes to find them. In a similar way, many of our hopes, values, and expectations can be buried beneath a lifetime of conditioning, so we must work to uncover them.

Write down specific expectations, values, and hopes you have for your marriage in the following categories. Be sure to write down how you feel about the particular topic, not what you think your fiancé wants to hear. The more specific and honest you are, the more gold you'll discover.

MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

- 1) How will you make decisions once you are married, and what will you do when you find that you cannot agree?



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2) How often do you expect to spend time with your friends after you are married?

3) How will you relate to opposite-sex friends after you are married?

FINANCES

4) Who will be the primary financial provider in the family and why?

5) Do you anticipate both husband and wife pursuing careers? If so, for how long?



6) How will you decide on major purchases?

7) Who will pay the bills and keep track of expenses?

8) What is your philosophy of giving (charitable donations to your church or to other organizations/ministries) and how will you make decisions about giving?

9) What are your convictions about debt and credit cards?



H O M E

10) Where do you want to live?

In what setting would you want to live (city, suburb, small town, rural, mountains, coastal, etc.)? Would your desires change five to ten years in the future?

11) Do you want to live in an apartment or house? Will you rent or buy?

12) What do you expect your standard of living to look like after five years of marriage? Ten years? Twenty years?

13) How soon after you are married do you expect to have your home reasonably furnished?



SOCIAL/ENTERTAINMENT/HOME ENVIRONMENT

14) How important are family meal times to you? How often will you eat out?

15) Do you want a pet in your home? If so, what type?

16) How often do you want to invite people over to your home?

What kind of entertaining do you expect to do (formal or informal dinners, large or simple parties, etc.)?



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- 17) How often do you want to go out on dates with your future spouse?
- 18) What will be the role of screen time in your home, and what guidelines will you have about what you watch?
- 19) What will be your guidelines about more mature content (i.e. violence, language) in the entertainment you watch together?
- 20) How do you think your friendships with other people will change after marriage?



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21) What hobbies or recreational activities will you pursue individually?

Together?

How often will you pursue them?

22) How do you feel about drinking alcohol, or having alcoholic beverages in your home and why do you feel that way?

HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES

23) Who will prepare your meals, and what types of food will you eat?



24) How clean do you want your home to be? What does “clean” look like to you?

25) Who will do each of the following?

Laundry _____

Buying groceries _____

Car maintenance _____

Home repairs and yard work _____

General household cleaning _____

Making the bed _____

CHILDREN AND PARENTING

26) In general, how do you feel about kids?

26) When would you like to start having kids, and how many do you want to have?



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28) What would you do if you cannot conceive biological children? Is adoption an exciting option for you?

29) What is your view on abortion?

30) What is your view on birth control?

31) Who will be the primary caregiver of your children?



32) How do you envision sharing the responsibility of disciplining your children and how will that discipline play out?

SPIRITUAL

33) When and how often will you pray and study the Bible together?

34) Where will you plug into a church and how involved will you be?

35) In what ways do you anticipate communicating your faith with others as a couple?



- 36) Who will take spiritual leadership in your home, and what do you think that means/looks like on a day-to-day basis?

HOLIDAYS / VACATIONS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS

- 37) Where will you spend major holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter?

How will you decide?

- 38) What expectations do you have for major holidays?

- 39) How often will you go on vacation and what are your desires for what a vacation will look like?



40) How will you celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries?

41) How much will you spend on gifts for family, friends, and each other (think birthdays, Christmas, weddings you attend, anniversaries, etc.)?

42) What would you want a typical weekend to look like?

PARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES

43) How do you think your relationship with your parents will change after you're married?

44) How much time do you anticipate spending with your parents and your in-laws?

45) What other relatives (siblings, cousins, grandparents, etc.) do you expect to be involved with in your marriage and family? In what ways would they be involved?



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46) How involved do you want your parents and in-laws to be in your children's lives?

How will you accomplish this?

S E X

47) What are your expectations about sex on your honeymoon?

48) In your first year of marriage, how often do you expect to experience sexual intimacy?

49) What do you feel about your spouse sometimes saying "no" to having sex?

