

the **big6** great **Date**xperiment



Great Date #1
Saturday, July 14th 5:30-9 pm

The Big 6 Essentials of Marriage #1
“Nurturing Romance”

How do you define romance?

Do you think of flowers, chocolates, love songs, candlelit dinners, Valentine’s day, anniversaries, romance novels?

What if this definition of romance speaks love to some people and is not altogether wrong, but shouldn’t be the whole definition.

In Matthew 10:29-31 Jesus was preparing the disciples for Him being gone. When you first read these verses about birds and our numbered hairs you might wonder if this was really the important instructions He should be leaving them before His death. But the importance of this verse is that Jesus was letting them (and all of us) know that it wasn’t **WHAT** we knew about them, but **THAT** he knew them and He knew them specifically. The creator of the whole universe knows every detail of our lives – the good, the bad and the ugly – and He loves us and died for us anyway! So the point of this verse shows us that He knew them specifically, so that He could love them more intimately!

Let us take a cue from Jesus’ example, challenge our definition of romance and redefine **nurturing romance as getting to know your spouse specifically, so that you can love them more intimately**. When we define romance this way, it goes from feeling like an extra to becoming an essential to a thriving marriage! This takes being intentional about making time to spend time with each other regularly to know each other deeply and vulnerably. We all gravitate to where we feel known and where we are loved. The level of intimacy we have with our spouse is uniquely designed to be the deepest relationship we have apart from God. However, many times we spend more time investing in our job, children, hobbies, etc.. Our marriage falls off of the radar and doesn’t get the regular, intentional time it has to have to thrive. When we are too busy for investing time into our marriage, then we are too busy! Remember, you are the only legitimate source of romance your spouse has access to.

Questions: ♦ When it comes to romance, why is knowing the uniquenesses of your spouse important?

- ♦ What are the obstacles to nurturing romance in your marriage? How can you compensate for these obstacles?
- ♦ What does nurturing romance look like at this stage of your marriage?
- ♦ How can you intentionally prioritize your marriage and commit to this plan of nurturing romance?

CHALLENGE: ♦ Be a student of your spouse. On your date, take your envelope and finish the statement on the piece of paper inside, “This is what I want you to know: ” After you each do this, please exchange them. Do this occasionally and keep them.

♦ Set a time that each week you can ask each other this question: “**How can I make you feel more loved this week?**”

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Nurture Romance – Get to know your spouse specifically, so you can love them more intimately.

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Welcome to **Great Date #1** of the **Big 6 Great Date Experiment**.

Each of the **6 Great Dates**, revolves around one of **MarriedLife's Big 6 Essentials**. The first **Great Date** is focusing on the essential of how to **Nurture Romance**.

Below, you will find **6 steps** for your date. Be sure not to look at the next step before completing the one before it. Have a **Great Date!**

STEP 1

Whet Your Appetite

SELECT A PLACE FOR AN APPETIZER

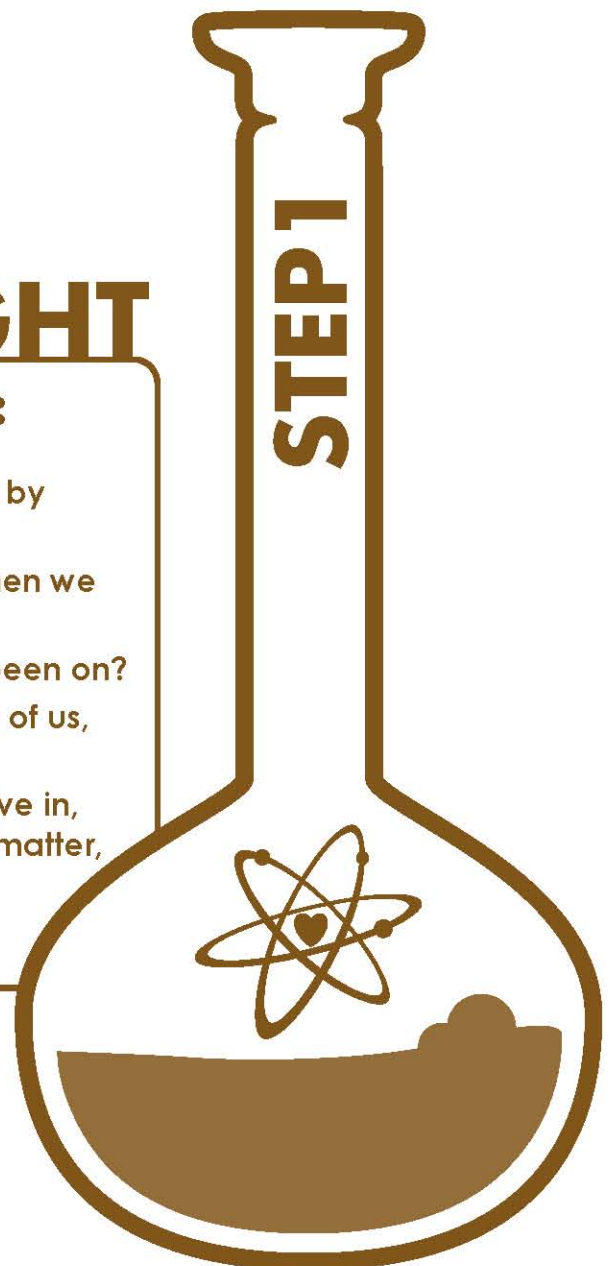
GUYS: Incorporate into the conversation 3 of the following pet names before the night is over – Cowgirl, Honey Bunches Of Oats, Bambi, Duckling, Eye Candy, Gangsta Baby, Magic Princess, Mamacita

LADIES: Pat him on the Gluteus Maximus at least two times before the night is over

food4THOUGHT

PICK 4 questions to answer:

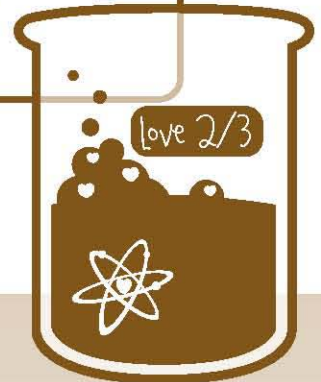
- When we were dating I tried to impress you by _____.
- What was your favorite thing for us to do when we were newlyweds? (*outside the bedroom*)
- What is the best date or trip we have ever been on?
- If you could plan a vacation for just the two of us, where would it be?
- If you had to pick a different city for us to live in, and proximity to family and friends did not matter, which city would it be?
- I get a kick out of watching you _____.



STEP 2

Picture This

With your camera phone, take a picture of the two of you. Use the picture to change the wallpaper on your phone. Post your picture and your Great Date story @ the All In Marriage facebook page. You can also see what other people are saying about their Great Date.



STEP 3

The Way to a Man's Heart

SELECT A PLACE FOR AN ENTREE

Would You Rather for While You Wait

- Would you rather take a one-week \$5000 vacation or go on five different long weekends that cost \$1000 each?
- Would you rather eat and never gain weight or speed and never get caught?
- Would you rather have an average house and a vacation home or your perfect dream home?

food4THOUGHT

Each person should answer these questions:

- Which of these Five Love Languages* below is the most important to you?
 - Words of Affirmation -Gifts -Quality Time
 - Physical Touch -Acts of Service
- At this particular season of our lives, how can I best speak that language to you?
- I am impressed with how much you know about _____.
- Something special about you that not many people see is _____.
- MarriedLife believes God passionately wants your marriage to work.
 - What part of our marriage do you think makes God the happiest?
 - What part of our marriage do you think God wishes we would change?
 - If I prayed for you for five days in a row, what would you want me to pray?

*Five Love Languages taken from Gary Chapman's book, The Five Love Languages

STEP 4

The Thought is ALL that Count\$

SELECT A STORE TO BUY YOUR SPOUSE A \$2 OR LESS GIFT.

Once in the store, separate. You have ten minutes to purchase a gift and meet back at the entrance of the store. Exchange gifts on a nearby bench or in the car. Tell your spouse why you picked that gift.



STEP 5

Sugar and Spice

SELECT A PLACE FOR A DESSERT

Daters can forego dessert and go to a secluded place and kiss in your car. *(MarriedLife is not responsible for any arrests and/or incarcerations - due to trespassing and/or lewd behavior.)*

food4THOUGHT

Each person should answer these questions:

- One of the nicest things you have ever done is _____.
- Without you I never would have _____.
- I look at you and say wow because _____.

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STEP 6

The Beginning of the End

ON YOUR WAY HOME, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

- The thing I love about you most is _____.

ONCE YOU ARRIVE HOME:

- Turn on some music in your car, roll down the windows and dance in the driveway.
- Kiss on the steps before you enter the house.

ONCE YOU ARE IN THE HOUSE:

- Now the rest is up to you... **OH YEAH!**



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