



AVOID SURPRISE WINTERIZE!

Marrriages are never static..... Every thought, word, behavior and action brings you closer to each other in intimacy or further from each other toward isolation.



So take my hand to hold!

Hold hands the whole date except to eat and write.

*"Every marriage is still in process," says Gary Chapman. In *The Four Seasons of Marriage*, he describes how marriages commonly move from one season to another – from summer to fall or perhaps from winter to spring. "Marriages are perpetually in a state of transition, continually moving from one season to another – perhaps not annually, as in nature, but just as certainly and consistently. The cycle repeats itself many times throughout the life of a marriage," Chapman says.*



WINTER: Season of marriage created not by the difficulties of life but by the manner in which a couple responds to those difficulties

EMOTIONS: Hurt, anger, disappointment, loneliness, feeling rejected

ATTITUDES: Negativity, discouragement, frustration, hopelessness

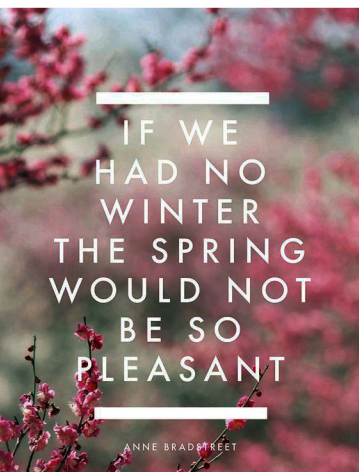
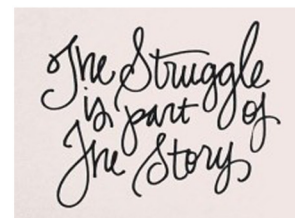
ACTIONS: Destructive, speak harshly, not speaking, withdrawal, violent acts

What areas of your marriage bring forth any of the emotions, attitudes and actions listed above?

Climate of Relationship: Detached, cold, harsh, bitter. In the winter season of marriage, couples are unwilling to negotiate differences. Conversations turn to arguments, or spouses withdraw in silence. There is no sense of togetherness. The marriage is like two people living in separate igloos.

The POSITIVE side of Winter: Some marriages may appear beyond hope, BUT don't give up. Often, couples are desperate enough to seek help for healing. Any marriage goes through some level of winter. God uses marital winters for good (Romans 8:28-29) to "affirm faith", "grow in character", to "produce patience and perserverance" (James 1:2-4) and to develop "Christ-like love" (I Peter 4:8).

Each of you share one area of your heart that has been touched by the chill of winter. Be gentle as you try to apply warmth to this chilly area. What is your plan to warm up this area of your marriage to prepare you for the new growth of spring?



IF WE HAD NO WINTER THE SPRING WOULD NOT BE SO PLEASANT

Go find shelter from the chilly night and get cozy with a warm drink while you reminisce about a previous winter experience that grew your spouses character. Remember a time when your spouse showed "Christ-like love". Share a time of victory when your faith grew stronger from your winter storm.

Order a dessert to go or stop by a store for your favorite treat.

Now, go park your car in a secluded spot for a "winter love" car date!

Share your sweets and your hopes for the spring. Turn on some love songs and celebrate!

When you get home & put the kids down, gather as many socks as you can find. Roll them into "snowballs".

Now, enjoy an indoor snowball fight. The first one with 3 shots to the head wins. Winner chooses the rest of the night!!

All In Marriage



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