

# Take back your **WITH!**

When we first date, we are always WITH each other. We are on the phone WITH each other, texting each other or spending time WITH each other. Years later we can find ourselves sitting in the same room, but not really WITH each other. This year we are going to focus on taking back your WITH. This date will introduce you to four principles that will begin our journey to **TAKE BACK YOUR WITH!!**

## *switch with*

When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, His answer was to love God with all you are and to love others as well as you love yourself. Loving God in your individual life greatly impacts your married life. (Matthew 22:37-40)

How do you stay in love? It's a profound question, and one couples have asked themselves. And while the answer does require something from both of you, it also requires a lot from you personally, and it means following Jesus' lead. You have to choose to put the other person first. You have to look to their interests, not just yours. To pursue connection with your spouse, you have to switch places with them and put his/her before you.

**Go to a clothing store. Each of you must pick out any outfit you would like to see your spouse in. When they try it on, take pics to post to the event page at [www.facebook.com/AllInMarriage](http://www.facebook.com/AllInMarriage).**

**Roll reverse as many things as you can during the date until the end of the evening (ie. switch who orders, who drives, who puts down the kids tonight, who takes the dog out, etc).**

## *feel with*

Of the few verses God gives to husbands and wives, the directive to respect and love is commanded more than any other. This truth really can set us free when we understand the interplay of respect and love. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Have you ever been in a "discussion" with your spouse, and one of you says or does something that escalates things to a higher level with one statement? It's like you tipped something over, and something then spills out. Most of us tend to think when that happens that our spouse pushed us to that point. But the reality is those emotions, fears, struggles, anger were already in us. Our spouse didn't put them there. Those feelings just spilled out. So what do you do with them? You need to accept responsibility that they are in you, not caused by anyone. Then, find out how to handle them in a way that shows respect and love for your spouse.

**Ask God where certain reactions in you are coming from? How can you "clean these up"? What words or actions for the husband allow him to feel the most respected? What words or actions for the wife allow her to feel the most loved?**



not with

Our spouses trusted that we would do what we promised when we said, "I do"—to love and respect each other and to stay together no matter what. Knowing and experiencing a lasting commitment is vital to every marriage. (Malachi 2:15)

When talking about marriage, most people focus a lot on the time you are WITH each other. But if you're like most couples, your NOT WITH time is greater than your WITH time. You have work, family, volunteer commitments . . . traffic. These are all things that keep you running in two different directions. So, is there a way to redeem your NOT WITH time? Because when it comes to connecting with your spouse, your NOT WITH time is just as important as your WITH time. You also must be cautious of the things that fill your NOT WITH time, as these are the places temptations very easily enter.

**Is there any way to get more time WITH each other? Evaluate your current WITH time...is it the quality you are looking for? Are there ways to improve it? Also, consider if there is anything you are doing in your NOT WITH time that poses a threat to your marriage. What guardrails need to be placed to protect each other and your family?**



fun with

Having fun as a couple is not optional; it's essential. We believe the best way to protect your marriage is to enjoy it regularly. (Proverbs 5:18)

Do you miss having fun with your spouse? Do you even remember what that was like? For some, it's a distant memory with brief flashes of laughter, joy, connection. We long for it, we just don't know how to make it happen.. But what if there was a way to make a connection every day? A way to lay the groundwork for the date night at least twice a month? Then take things to a whole new level with an annual escape? It's possible. And it might be easier than you realize.

**Are there any activities you could start doing that would increase the level of fun in your marriage?**

**Each of you share one of your steamiest memories as a couple. See if you can recreate it. Old folks, don't hurt yourself ☺**



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