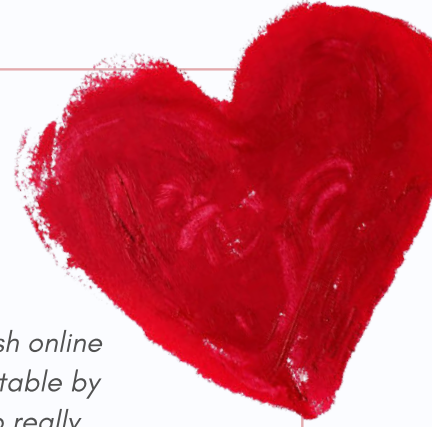


# Work it Out...

## Marriage Matters



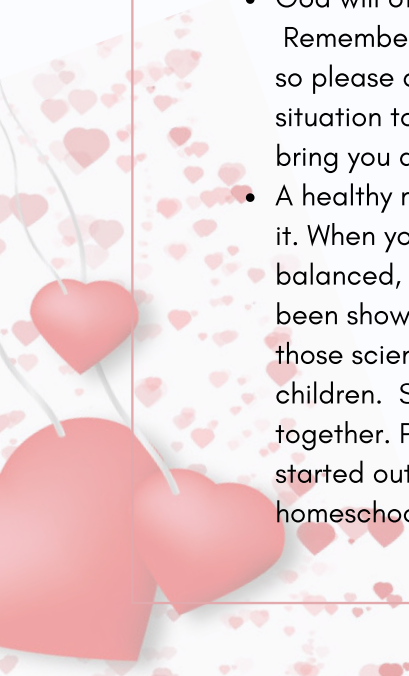
### How to get the most out of this worksheet...

- Take time to watch the corresponding video first. Grab a journal or open a fresh online document and start working these questions out. These worksheets are not editable by design-- rather, they give you a little room for brainstorming before you take to really working out your vision and dreams for your family.
- Really take time to think through the questions here and thoughtfully answer each one. The questions are here to help you think through things that you may not have taken the time to truly consider before, and you'll be amazed at how much clarity you'll get just by stopping to write down what's in your heart for your children

As a homeschooling family, you'll encounter many things that are unique to our demographic— not the least of which is that all of a sudden mom (or dad) will have a brand new full-time, non-paying job that will take time and energy away from other things. Those additional, new things to work around— and sometimes the insecurity from wondering if you're doing them well— can reveal weak spots in any relationship. And you can either decide to learn and grow together through those, which will make your relationship stronger, or to allow those weak spots to grow and divide you as a couple.

### Before you start writing, let's review some of the important points from this lesson:

- Our anchor for this lesson is "Never Stop Protecting, Prioritizing, and Investing In your Marriage."
- Your mission as a Christian parent is to teach your children diligently— period. Throughout God's Word, we see principle after principle for parents— all of which include naturally and intentionally passing on your faith to your children and preparing them for what lies ahead. If you and your spouse are both believers, I hope you can agree on that point at least.
- God will often use this time of decision to draw you closer together if you allow Him to. Remember, sometimes God is actually teaching you both things through the waiting time, so please don't short-change those special learning moments by trying to manipulate the situation to get your own way or move forward on your own. God is absolutely able to bring you and your spouse to one mind!
- A healthy marriage is one of the most life-giving things on earth to those who experience it. When you're in good standing with your spouse, you'll find that you're happier, more balanced, less stressed, more healthy, you take better care of yourself— and it's even been shown in medical studies that those in a happy marriage tend to live longer. Beyond those scientific things, though, you're modeling what a good marriage looks like for your children. So you'll tie to the anchor as you flirt. Tease. Have fun. Prioritize spending time together. Plan together. Dream together... and fall more in love together than when you started out your marriage. Investing time and energy in your marriage will make your homeschool efforts— and everything else in your life much more productive.



Are you and your spouse already on the same page about homeschooling-- and honestly everything else that pertains to your family? If so, great! This exercise will actually strengthen your understanding of where each of you are coming from, because even if you're together on the big things, understanding each other's story is really important for moving forward on the little things as well-- those daily decisions you're called on to make. So, take a few minutes to write down how you both came to the decision point where you are. Allow the other one to tell their story without interruption-- or write it down separately and then compare notes. I am always amazed when David and I go through an exercise like this how much deeper we see God at work when we see how He's leading through one another's eyes. Weaving both sides of your story into 1 cohesive narrative will be a great story to pass on to your children one day, and it will keep you both on track as time goes on.



If you're not on the same page yet, ask God to show you where the disconnect is. Are you focusing on the wrong thing? Should your discussions go deeper into your overall mission and goals for your family before you start talking about how you're going to achieve them? Put some thought and prayer into what the reasons may be that you're not on the same page-- and think about how God would have you approach those. It could be that He's just asking you to pray and trust His timing, or you may have some things to apologize for before you can move forward together. Spend some time soul searching that out.

Let's do a little life inventory now. If you're going to be really effective as a wife, mom, homeschool teacher, home manager, etc... you need to make sure that you're disciplined with your "yes." Are there things on your schedule or priority list that are awesome-- but may not be right for this season of your life? Identify any of those and pray about how you need to make changes to your schedule and obligations to allow margin to do what God has called you to do right now.

