



MARRIAGE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

April, 2024 Newsletter from The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY)



At our winter church, which is a small congregation, we have a time before the service called "Family Time."

People are asked how they have seen the Lord working in their life each week.

This past Sunday, a young man shared that on Friday he lost his job. On Saturday, he went to a career fair and was hired on Monday. It was a much better opportunity for him.

As we say, "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!"

How have you seen God working in your life this week?

Grace and peace,

Penny and David

Upcoming Marriage Events

FamilyLife's New Art of Marriage - Two-Day Retreat

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Friday, April 26 (6:30 pm - 8:30 p.m.) and Saturday, April 27 (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)

MERCI Barn
8610 Indiana 111
Memphis, IN 47143

Cost: \$20/couple

A transformative marriage resource designed to help you explore new levels of intimacy, communication, and connection with your spouse. Whether you are a newlywed or have been married for decades, FamilyLife's Art of Marriage is



Parent's Night Out

If you need a built-in babysitter for a Date Night "Whet Your Palette" has you covered.

"Whet Your Palette"
1415 Evergreen Rd, Louisville, KY
40223.
(502) 438-8865

Date Nights are available Monday through Saturday (10:00 am- 10:00 pm; Sunday 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm). Simply drop off your little ones and while you enjoy some quality time rekindling your connection, your kids will be engaged in exciting painting classes, enjoy delicious snacks and have an absolute blast.

\$30 Campers 7-9
\$30 Campers 4-6
\$30 Campers 10-12

For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

Perhaps Marriage Isn't For You

XO Marriage recently shared an article called "This Changed My Perspective on Marriage Forever" by Chad and Tori Masters. It is about this guy called Chad. Chad said in his bachelor days he fell into a vicious cycle of:

- Meet someone new
- Go on a few dates
- Things fizzle out

your path to a stronger, more beautiful masterpiece of God's handiwork.

For more information or to register, [click here](#).



Five Love Languages
Dinner/Date, skits, fun
and games - May 11 -
6:00 - 8:30 pm

MERCI Barn
8610 Indiana 111
Memphis, IN 47143

Cost: \$35/couple

To register or for more information, [click here](#).



Love and Lordship
April 26-27, 2024

Mt. Zion Community Church
6155 Mt. Sterling Road
Winchester, KY 40391

- Rinse and Repeat

His best friend told him, "Marriage isn't for you, Chad."

Chad asked for an explanation. When his friend said marriage wasn't for him, he told Chad he didn't mean he wasn't cut out for marriage. he was telling Chad, "You don't marry someone for the way they make you feel. You marry someone for the way you want to make them feel."

So whether you are single, been married for years or anything in between, it is never too late to learn that marriage isn't for you. To read the entire article, [click here](#).

Go on a Blind Date With Your Spouse - by The Dating Divas



Perhaps you are thinking, how can I go on a blind date with my spouse? Normally on a blind date, you go into the date without knowing WHO your date will be. On this date; however, you know who your date is, but you will have no idea WHAT you will be doing. The key to creating the same excitement as a traditional blind date is harboring the excitement and anticipation that comes from the unknown!

To find out more about how to pull this off, [click here](#).

This event is based on Greg Williams' book *The Authority of Love*.

To register, [click here](#).

Note: Registration ends April 19 at 5:00 pm.



Indianapolis, IN - April 26-28,, 2024

A counselor-led workshop for couples in crisis.

A New Beginning is a turn-around weekend designed to help couples who feel stuck in an unhealthy marriage, couples who are frustrated and unhappy and couples considering divorce.

For more information, [click here](#).



Pure Life Ministries is dedicated to helping Christian men and women overcome sexual sin and its consequences.

[Pure Life Ministries Annual Conference](#) - May 3-4, 2024
Ark Encounter of Williamstown, KY

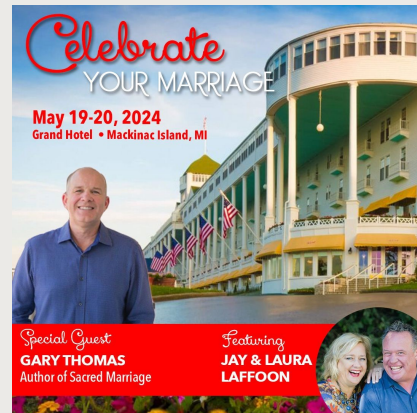
For more information, about this ministry and this upcoming conference, [click here](#).



Religion is often a safeguard against family abuse. According to Communio, families involved in religious activities tend to be happier, more stable, and less abusive than other families. One study discovered that men who attend religious services regularly are 72% less likely to abuse their female partners, which adds to a family's overall sense of stability and well-being.

Celebrate Your Marriage -

May 19-20 at Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI



If you are looking for a great getaway, join Jay and Laura Laffoon and special guest, Gary Thomas for a weekend of love and learning.

For more information, ticket pricing and registration, [click here](#).

Couplettime - How Good of a Listener Are You?

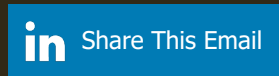
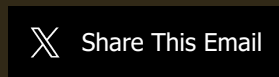
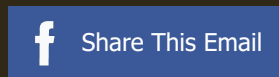
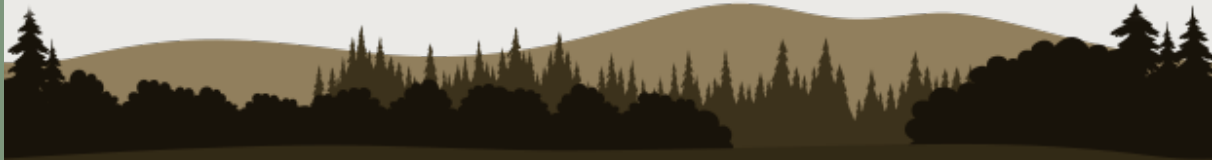
Listening, really listening, is hard. But listening is one of the most important of communication skills. It allows you to understand, enjoy, learn and bring you closer. However, for many it is contaminated by many blocks that keep you from listening.

Here are a few blocks that Matthew McKay, Ph.D., Patrick Fanning and Kim Paleg, Ph.D. tell us gets in the way of listening.

- Mindreading - You are mindreading when you disregard or distrust what your spouse is actually saying and instead try to figure out what your spouse really means.
- Rehearsing - This is when you are so busy rehearsing what you'll say next that you never really hear what your partner is telling you.
- Filters - This is when you listen to some things but not others. Filtering can also include excluding things you don't want to hear.
- Judging - You listen only to gather evidence of your spouse's negatives.
- Daydreaming - You could be avoiding listening to certain topics. You are tired of hearing about or bored with the topic.
- Advising - This is often referred to as "Mr./Ms. Fix it to the Rescue." Your search for the right solution and your urge to fix everything

- deafens you to your partner's simple need to be heard.
- Sparring - You listen only to disagree, argue and debate. You take a position and defend it regardless of what the other person says.
 - Being right - This is when you don't want to hear anything that suggest you are less than perfect.
 - Derailing - You change the subject or joke about it.
 - Placating - You are too quick to agree. As soon as your mate expresses doubt, irritation or anxiety you jump in with "Yes. . .Your Right; I'm sorry and I'll fix it, etc.

Wow! Who knew how many blocks can keep us from listening. Think back to three situations where communication broke down between you and your spouse. Which blocks kept you from really listening?



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