

Drink From Your Own Well

*Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. . . .
May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. . .
may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.*
(Proverbs 5:15, 18, 19)

Robert Fulghum (1995) tells the story of a pastor who invited a bride and groom to bring to their wedding a symbolic meal, something to help them remember that love needs to be nourished just as the body does. It didn't matter what they brought, it just had to be something they regularly ate and drank and which would continue to be part of their daily lives. The particular couple in this story brought two kinds of toast, since their tastes were different. As part of the ceremony, they fed one another bites of toast as a symbol of their willingness to nurture and care for one another's needs daily. They also drank together as a reminder never to become too busy to celebrate the great occasions in their lives. The groom provided sparkling water from the restaurant where he proposed. He had bought a whole case and had already labeled one bottle "First Anniversary," another "Children," and on and on, "Baptisms," "Graduations," "Miscellaneous Great Days." And so their covenant was sealed with ceremony and symbol in the presence of God and their friends.

For group discussion:

1. How does an understanding of God's faithfulness (cf. Hos. 2:19-20) expand our understanding of faithfulness in marriage?
2. Ellen White comments that love is like a tender plant which needs to be nourished. (See *Adventist Home*, p. 196). What kinds of needs do husbands and wives bring to a marriage? What kinds of needs cannot be met by a spouse alone?
3. What kind of marriage relationship do you think is in the wise man's mind as he chooses descriptive words like "drink," "fountain," "rejoice," "satisfy," "captivated"?
4. Why is it important for couples to create meaningful symbols and rituals in their lives?
5. Why are celebrations of significant events in the lives of couples important?
6. Relate stories of meaningful symbols and rituals and celebrations in your lives which you feel comfortable sharing as a couple.

For couple dialogue:

1. Ways in which I am captivated, satisfied, and rejoicing in your love . . .
2. Meaningful symbols, rituals, and celebrations in our lives which bind us together . . .
3. Needs I perceive in you that I would like to talk with you about . . .
4. Things I can do to keep our bond strong . . .
5. Recommitment vows I would like to exchange now . . .
6. My idea of how to celebrate our love . . .

References

Fulghum, R. (1995). *From beginning to end; the rituals of our lives*. New York: Ivy Books.

White, E. G. (1952). *The Adventist home*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association.