

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea

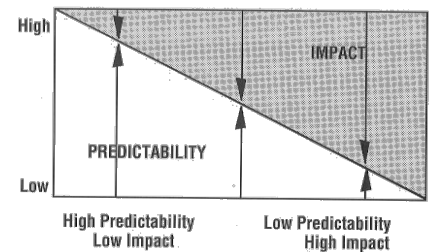


Falling in love is easy. But staying in love—being committed to each other—is a bit more difficult. Ever wonder if people can stay together for good—like people in love? Is it even possible for two people to stay in a passion-filled marriage?

BIG IDEA: Win your spouse's heart every single day, because what is won can be lost.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the first person you fell in love with. What made you fall in love?
2. Do you think it is easier to fall in love than staying in love? Why or why not? What obstacles do we have of staying in love and keeping the passion in our marriages?
3. What is the best piece of advice you've heard about making a relationship last?
4. Chris said that an *obstacle of keeping the passion in our marriage is that we become predictable*. Do you agree or disagree?
5. When you were dating your soon-to-be spouse, what sort of creative things did you do to win him/her? If you were doing now what you did then, do you think she would have said yes? Do you think he would have proposed?
6. Read *Song of Solomon 4:1-7, 11* and *5:10-16*. Do you think that the passion is still there in this relationship? Why or why not? How do you think they kept passion in their marriage?
7. Chris said that an *obstacle of keeping the passion in our marriage is that we think sex starts in the bedroom, not the kitchen*. What do you think this means?



We have to realize that Sex starts in the kitchen. That great sex is an all day affair. It starts by serving your spouse in the morning. Ken Leman says it like this: "If you want to see your wife in lingerie, then maybe you need to wear an apron once in a while and take a couple of steps in the direction of dishpan hands." We can't focus on what we want to happen in the bedroom if we're not willing to focus on what needs to be done in the kitchen.

8. Read *Ephesians 5:21-22, 25*. In verse 21, Paul refers to mutual submission. What does mutual submission look like in the context of a romantic relationship? How would you define submission?
9. Ladies, do you tend to see submission in a positive or negative light? Why or why not?
10. Men, how did Jesus love the church in *Ephesians 5:25*? Do you see this as an easy or hard to do, especially in the context of what Jesus did? Jesus' love led Him to die for us; what would it mean for a husband to live with his wife with this type of love?
11. Read *Romans 12:9-11*. How does Paul describe true love in these verses? How can you make your spouse's priorities your priorities this week?
12. Chris said that an *obstacle of keeping the passion in our marriage is that we stop pursuing our spouse*. What advice would you give a couple that's stopped pursuing one another? How would you counsel them to rekindle their passion? How does placing the marriage relationship on autopilot kill a marriage?
13. Why do we tend to pursue what we don't have? Why is this especially true for men?
14. Read *Genesis 29:16-30*. How would you feel if you were Jacob in this story? How would you feel if you were Rachel? How would you feel if you were Leah?

THINK ABOUT IT

If we want to regain the passion that was once in our relationship, then we have to do what we once did. Though that's bad grammar, it is good for a marriage. You can fall back in love as easily as you fell in love, because our actions always precede our feelings.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Talk to your spouse and ask them what was the most memorable date

CHANGING YOUR MIND

So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days. Genesis 29:20