

Helpful Hints For a Successful Retreat

1. The husband should take the lead role in making sure the retreat happens. Plan the sessions, make the reservations, take care of the details. Planning the retreat together is good, but the man should take responsibility for making it happen. Too often the wife gets stuck with the dirty work.
2. Make sure you plan fun and romantic times into your retreat. It's important that your wife come away with good feelings about the retreat. Especially if you ever want to have another one.
3. Pray before, during and after your retreat that God will bless your time away together, the decisions you make and the implementation of your plans.
4. Make sure you think through the logistics of the retreat so you will have everything you will need to make it successful. (Example: Financial information, firewood and matches, food, candles, etc.)
5. Be aware of discussion topics that are potentially emotional land mines and determine to be prayerful, understanding, flexible and loving during these particular areas of discussion. You can disagree, but do not let it become an argument. God does not appreciate, nor does He bless, arguing.
6. It would help to know your spouse's love languages and predominant personality temperament to help you make it enjoyable for each other, as well as, productive. (Excellent sources for these are, Five Love Languages, by Gary Chapman and Personality Plus by Florence Litteaur.)
7. Once your retreat is over and activities are placed on your calendar, things will come up during the year which were unforeseen that will effect your scheduled activities. When this happens, follow these guidelines:
 - a. Try not to replace a higher value priority activity with something of a lower priority to you. Simply decide that day and time is already booked and can't be changed.

- b. If you do need to reschedule an activity on your calendar, reschedule it immediately to make sure it is doesn't get lost. Good intentions to reschedule it later will seldom succeed.
 - c. Don't get so tied down by your calendar schedule that you feel confined and stressed, but if you follow these guidelines, at the end of the year, you can have the comfort of knowing you actually accomplished those things which were the most important to you. If some things didn't get done, they were low priority things anyway.
8. Every couple is different. If you struggle with completing everything, just figure what works best for you as a couple. We found we actually need an extra day for our retreat, so we've included in this package both a Friday through Sunday option and a Thursday through Sunday option.