



COUPLES GOAL-SETTING QUESTIONNAIRE

One of the greatest enemies of marital unity is lack of time to communicate. Years ago, author and founder of the Ron Blue Institute, Ron Blue, began having regular devoted time away with his wife Judy to plan and communicate about financial goals related to their marriage and family.

While getting away for an entire weekend would be ideal, we recognize the challenges and demands of that idea. So, we're recommending a series of dates away from your home, where there are often many distractions.

There are six basic areas to cover: financial, marriage, family, spiritual, social, and physical. Don't expect to get in-depth on all six in one date. However, over a period of several dates, asking "Where do we want to see change or growth in this area?" and "How can we make that change or growth happen?" will give you a starting point for discussion in the major areas of your life.

As you go through the six areas, consider spending some time alone before you talk together. If you each process individually first, then bring a journal, you'll each have a voice in the discussion and can end up with a truly unified approach.

You'll be amazed at the growth the questions will facilitate in your marriage and at the power of accomplishing goals together with your spouse!

GOAL-SETTING QUESTIONNAIRE

The questions and categories listed on this questionnaire are not meant to be all-inclusive. Adapt, ignore, or supplement them as you need to. Don't try to pinpoint any "right" or "wrong" answers; rather, use this document as a catalog of ideas to jump-start your goal-setting process and help you understand and appreciate your spouse's thoughts and priorities. Record your answers on a separate sheet of paper.



FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

1. Do I feel comfortable with the amount of money we make?
2. Is there anything we can do to improve our financial situation?
3. Do we have an adequate amount of life insurance? What about home, health, and auto coverage? Do I know how to locate and use the policy information?
4. Do we need to reduce our taxes? Are we under- or over-withholding?
5. Are we giving away the right amount or percentage of our income? Are our gifts being used for the right purposes or organizations? When is the best time for us to give—weekly, monthly, or on some other schedule?
6. How much debt do we have? Is this an acceptable amount? Should we try to get out of debt, or avoid it altogether?
7. How much are we saving? How much should we be saving? What are we saving for? How often should we set money aside, and where should we put it?
8. Why are we investing? How much should we invest? Am I comfortable with how our investment portfolio is allocated? Should we be more (or less) aggressive in our investment approach?
9. How much should we spend on things like our house, our vacations, our cars, etc.?
10. Do we want to send our children to private/Christian school? How much will that cost? How much are we willing/able to spend on a college education for our children?

MARRIAGE QUESTIONS

1. Is our marriage headed in the right direction? Are we growing closer and is the relationship maturing?
2. Am I meeting my spouse's emotional, physical, and intellectual needs?
3. Is my spouse meeting my emotional, physical, and intellectual needs?
4. Do we clearly communicate with one another?
5. Should we go out more often, or make more time for romance?
6. Do I tell my spouse "I love you" often enough? What do I do or say to show my love?
7. What can we do to improve our sexual relationship?
8. What do we want our marriage to look like five years from now?
9. What do I see as the husband's primary responsibilities in the marriage relationship?
10. What do I see as the wife's primary responsibilities in the marriage relationship?

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FAMILY QUESTIONS

1. How many children would we like to have?
2. Do we consistently and properly love our children?
3. Do we consistently and properly discipline them?
4. What are the most important character traits we want to see our children develop?
5. What rules do we want to establish for our children at home and in public?
6. Where should we go on vacation? How should we spend weekends and other leisure time?
7. Does our devotion to our children interfere with or hamper our marriage relationship?
8. If something were to happen to us, who would we want to serve as the guardian for our children? Have we provided for our children through a will?
9. Do we support one another in front of our children?
10. According to the following passages, what are the main responsibilities of parents and children? Col. 3:20-21; Heb. 12:5-11; Prov. 3:11-12; Eph. 6:1-4.

SPIRITUAL QUESTIONS

1. Am I spending consistent, quality time with the Lord? Is my spiritual relationship stagnant or progressive?
2. Should we have family devotions? What should they look like?
3. Am I providing spiritual encouragement for my spouse?
4. Should we be more involved in personal evangelism?
5. Are we active in our church?
6. What are my primary spiritual gifts?
7. What are my spouse's primary spiritual gifts?
8. Are we effectively using these gifts for the Kingdom of God?
9. What can we do to improve our prayer life, individually and as a couple?
10. What should our ministry focus be?

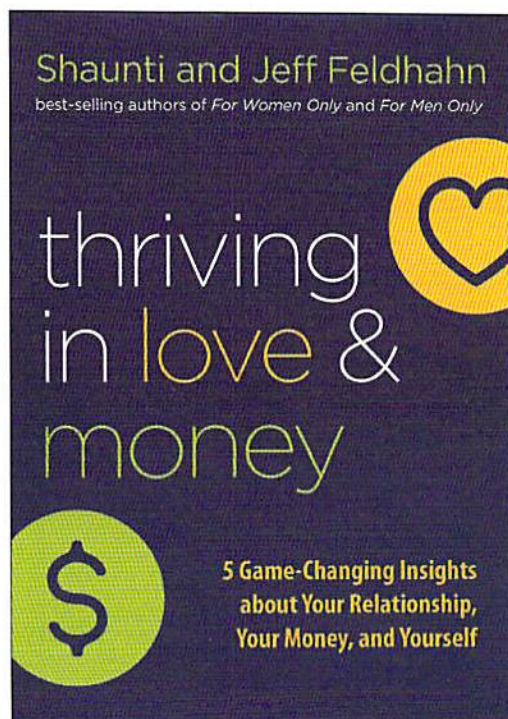
SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1. Is there a proper balance between my time spent at home and away from home?
2. Should we entertain more?
3. Should we be making an effort to get to know more people?
4. Are there any specific people I would like to get to know better?
5. Are we involved in our community, schools, and/or social organizations?
6. Are we over-committed to social, athletic, or other activities?
7. Do our children demonstrate wisdom when choosing their friends?
8. Do we demonstrate wisdom when choosing friends and social activities?
9. Are there people in the church and neighborhood that we should help, befriend, and care for?
10. Is our home an inviting place for our friends and our children's friends to gather?

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PHYSICAL QUESTIONS

1. How can I improve my eating habits?
2. How can we improve our family's eating habits?
3. Am I getting enough exercise?
4. Is my spouse getting enough exercise?
5. Are our children involved in athletic or physical activities?
6. Are there any skills or sports I want to learn (e.g. to play the piano, speak French, or play tennis)?
7. Do I need to lose/gain weight?
8. Is there anything I should do to make myself more attractive to my spouse?
9. Are there any athletic goals I want to pursue (e.g. being able to run a mile—or a marathon)?
10. What can I do to encourage or enable my spouse to meet his/her physical goals?



How do men and women view money differently?
What do most couples fight about? How can they get
on the same page?

Establish a strong foundation for communication by deepening your understanding of each other. *Thriving in Love & Money* is based on original research Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn have conducted to get to the heart of these issues. And just as they did with their bestselling books *For Women Only* and *For Men Only*, they use their research to provide the answers and insights you need to break the tension and provide the unity you're looking for.

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