



Welcome back to the Great Date Night!

The next four months are going to be filled with fun dates, and great conversations! We've even included some additional worksheets in case you and your spouse want to keep the discussion going in-between great dates!

As usual, take advantage of our inexpensive childcare if you have small children, you can register and choose your childcare time and location online at www.capechristian.com/greatdates

Please print the discussion guide on the next page and take it with you on your date. You can go out to dinner, find a shady spot at the park, or just stay in for a night of homemade dessert and some alone time. Wherever you go, you can use the following page as your evening's conversational guide.

Oh yeah, and don't forget to post pictures and like/share the church's facebook page at www.facebook.com/capechristian

Have a Great Date!

And they lived happily ever after...

We all grew up surrounded by stories that painted an idealized picture of true love and happily-ever-afters, from fairytales of beautiful princesses and charming princes to high-octane action movies about saving the world and the boy/girl in one fell swoop to classical and modern-day stories of star-crossed lovers. By the time we reach adulthood, we've been influenced by thousands of hours of television programming, big-budget movies, and written stories that give us unseen, unrealistic expectations for what relationships are really all about.

Use this discussion guide to navigate these issues on your date tonight. Follow Up This Discussion in the weeks to come with the "Modern Myths" worksheets on the following pages.

There are three killer myths we believe about marriage...

1. Marriage is about me
2. A great marriage shouldn't require much work
3. Divorce is the logical response to a miserable marriage

Do you agree that people fall for these myths? Why / why not?

Of these myths, which do you tend to fall for the most? Why?

The best way to tell if we've believed these myths is in how we respond to our spouse, and the effort we make to invest in our marriage. Take a moment to dig deeper into these myths by discussing the following questions.

Myth #1 – Marriage is about me

In your marriage, how do you react when you don't get what you want? Keep your answers personal to you; don't try to answer for your spouse! Try to discuss specific examples.

Myth #2 – A great marriage shouldn't require much work

What are some practical things you've done to invest in your marriage? How have they paid off?

Myth #3 – Divorce is the logical response to a miserable marriage

When troubles arise in your marriage, how do you tend to deal with them? Again, keep this specific to you, don't answer for your spouse.

Worksheet Two - Revealing modern myths of divorce

How did we go from a society where divorce laws were enacted to protect the rights of women and children to a society where divorce has become the ultimate solution when a couple just isn't "happy"? Part of the problem is that we've believed modern myths about marriage, and about relationships in general. There are three in particular that can be killer..

3 killer myths of modern marriage:

1. *Marriage is about me*
2. *A great marriage shouldn't require much work*
3. *Divorce is the logical response to a miserable marriage*

Myths of the modern relationship...



- I need to find my soul mate!
- Compatibility is key!
- Chemistry is what matters!
- I need someone who won't try to change me.
- We will just "click"
- If we don't "click", I must have picked the wrong person!

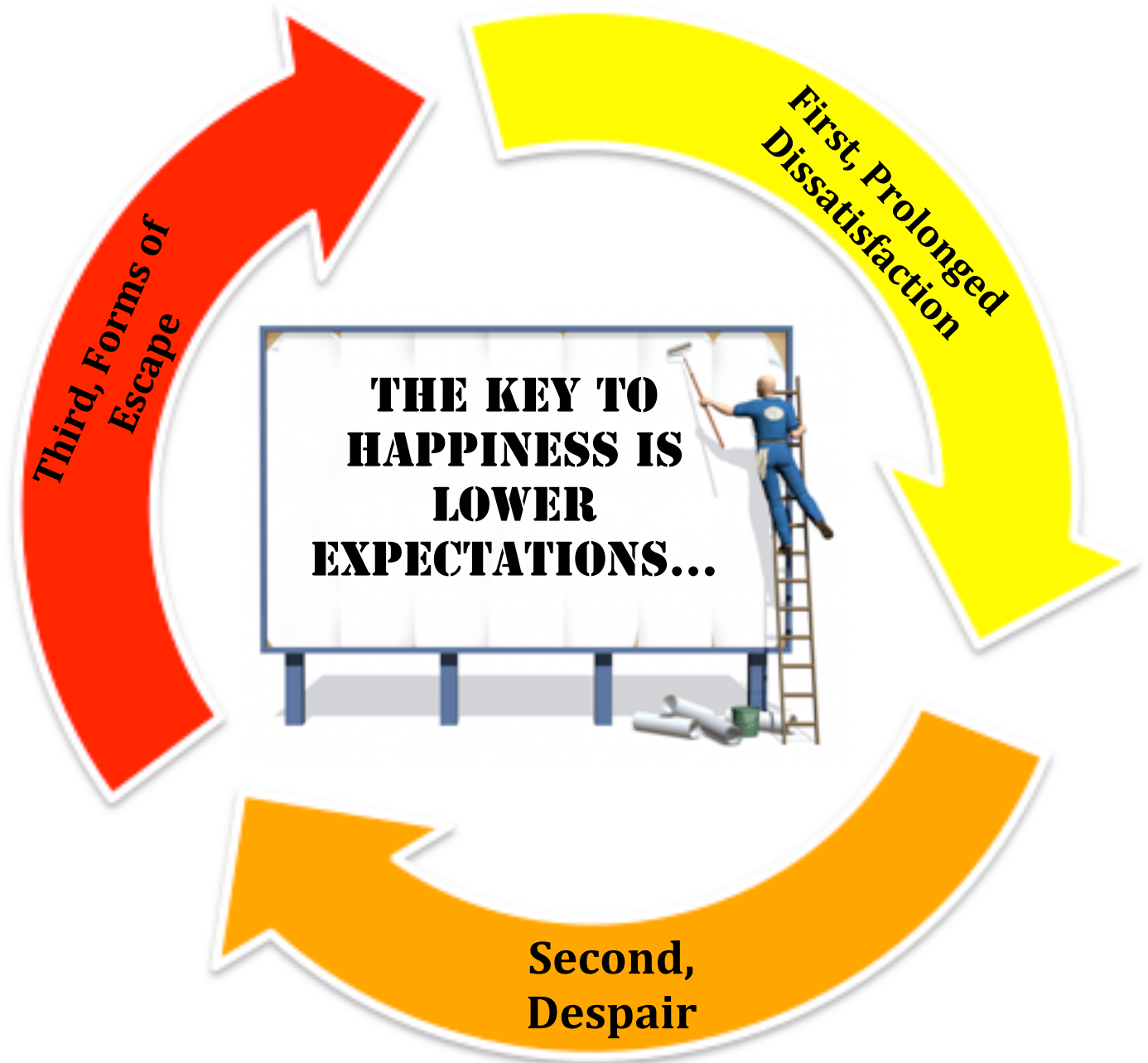
Take a moment and write down some of these myths as you've believed them, if you want to get really personal, maybe write out times you've believed them about each other! After this, write down some myths you think people fall for, that aren't on this list.

Modern Myths You've Fallen For...

Modern Myths not on this list that you think people tend to believe...

Because of these modern myths, we often get frustrated simply because of our misguided expectations concerning what a marriage should even be! When these expectations aren't met we become unhappy, and then we are told that the cure for our unhappiness is a new spouse, we look to divorce. This follows a fairly predictable pattern we call, "The anatomy of a divorce."

The anatomy of a divorce:



Discussion questions:

What did you grow up thinking about marriage?

What were your greatest sources of attraction to your spouse?

As you were entering into marriage, what did you think were the primary ingredients to a successful marriage?

In what ways do you think popular culture skews our perspective of a healthy marriage?

What are five things you want your spouse to say about you:

What are five ways you think your spouse is truly amazing:
