

Kalib and Mari's Tend Talks

These are called "tend talks" because they are a primary way we care for, protect, and invest in our marriage. We see our marriage like a garden that needs lots of intentional work and nurture. Just like a garden, a great marriage does not happen by accident. It is the result of the Lord graciously giving fruit to our labor.

We have created our "tend talks" and pursue making them a normal rhythm in our life in order to help us love, respect, and serve one another and to pursue the oneness that the Lord desires husbands and wives to enjoy. We use the questions (our practice) to help us fulfill the biblical principles and commands (to know, love, forgive, etc.)

We do not share these questions with you so that you will adopt our exact practice. The Lord doesn't call anyone to this. However, every husband and wife is called by God to the principles we mentioned. Each couple needs to decide for themselves how to best fulfill them. A question for each of us is, "What is our plan to pursue the biblical principles for our marriage?"

We are not hoping to communicate that we have it together or meet some sort of standard you need to meet. Far from that. We humbly share our practice with you because we have been blessed by the way it has protected and strengthened our marriage, which is all a result of God's great kindness. *We also share our practice with you so that it might help you come up with your own.*

Weekly Questions

Looking Back

What was the highlight of your week (this past week)?

What was the low of your week?

What is God teaching you this week? From Where (in the Bible or what book)?

How are your affections for Him?

"Housekeeping" questions

What lingering hurts do you have? (How have you been hurt by me this past week in ways that we have not discussed yet and need to?)

For self-->Where have I wronged you this week and need to ask you for forgiveness?

Use this time to confess and ask for forgiveness (follow re|engage model in chapter 6)

Looking Forward

What are you looking forward to the most this next week?

What are you looking forward to the least?

What will your biggest challenge be and what specific help from the LORD do you need?

What are your hopes/expectations for the week?
How can I pursue you sexually and romantically (date) this week?

What does our calendar look like this next week or two?
Who do you want spend time with this week/this month?
This could be individually, as a couple, or as a family.

How can I help you manage our household this week?/ How can I serve you this week?

Periodic Questions

How is _____(child #1) doing and what is your plan this week to lead, love, and train him?
What evidences of grace do you see in him/her?
Do this with each of your children.

What is one thing/area where I can improve on as a husband or dad / wife or mother?

How did I do this week with (specific event, i.g. helping you with hosting our friends for dinner)?

How do our finances look? Questions or concerns?

End Each Time

“Thank yous!” –take time to express gratitude and show appreciation you have for your spouse and what they have done this last week.

Highlight evidences of grace you see in your spouse.
(particularly look for faith, humility, gratitude, biblical masculinity (leading, providing, protecting, serving, loving) / biblical femininity (helping, nurturing, submitting, respecting).

Pray together and sing