

# **Arrows Out 2009 - Marriage Outreach Workshop**

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35 cards - Ice Breaker - In your opinion, what are the one or two qualities that make for effective marriage outreach?

## **Telling our Marriage Stories - The Woodwards and The Johnsons**

1) Investing in your own marriage with God - Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who builds it. Psalm 127:1a

### **Intentionality**

- a) walks together
- b) date nights
- c) recreating together
- d) face to face time
- e) reading God's word together
- f) weekend getaways

### **Outreach - How?**

The apostle Paul gives us a vision for living for the sake of others (marriage outreach) in his letter to the believers in Colossae, when he tells them "Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." **Colossians 4:5-6 *The Message***

Lets unpack these verses and see how they may apply to marriage outreach. "Use your heads"... Let's be listeners to the people in our circles of influence, fully present in conversations.

"As you live and work among outsiders"... Our whole lives involve the Spiritual realm, don't be separate living a sacred vs. secular life. God is at work in this world, stirring hearts, conversations wherever we go. Let's join him where He is working in the lives of others.

"Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity."... Paul encourages them to live lives for the greater good, even the small things matter. God will present us with opportunities to come alongside others in marriage issues. Whether at work, in our neighborhoods, at the schools, at community events, the park, in our yards or recreating together, God is with us.

"The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation." When we bring out the best in others, they will know that we are with them for their good. Use a conversation to build them up, understanding and connecting in their story.

- *The connection point for us with others in marriage is the telling of our story.*

## **Resources and tools:**

Leadership Catalyst - [www.truefaced.com](http://www.truefaced.com) - experiencing grace and freedom in relationships

Love and Respect - small group study, Dvd's - [www.loveandrespect.com](http://www.loveandrespect.com)

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage - small group study, Dvd's - [www.laughyourway.com](http://www.laughyourway.com)

FamilyLife - HomeBuilders small group studies - [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

Gary Smalley - Marriage relationship resources - [www.smalleyonline.com](http://www.smalleyonline.com)

Marriage Mentors - [www.marriagementors.com](http://www.marriagementors.com)

Families Northwest - [www.familiesnorthwest.org](http://www.familiesnorthwest.org)

Les and Leslie Parrot - [www.realrelationships.com](http://www.realrelationships.com)

The Great Commandment.net - Marriage Encounters - [www.greatcommandment.net](http://www.greatcommandment.net)

Chip Ingram - [www.livingontheedge.org](http://www.livingontheedge.org)

Gary Thomas - Sacred Marriage - [www.garythomas.com](http://www.garythomas.com)

Prepare and Enrich - [www.prepare-enrich.com](http://www.prepare-enrich.com)

InFocus Family Ministries - [www.infocusliving.org](http://www.infocusliving.org) - Vic and Monique Woodward