

MAKING MARRIAGE WORK — TOGETHER

with Nate and Liz Dewberry

FOCUS VERSES

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:13-14

DISCUSSION

- 1. Not every couple deals with obstacles as challenging as Nate and Liz maintaining a relationship on different continents, but all spouses and partners go through some rocky times at first.
 - a. If you're in a relationship, what challenges did you face early on?
 - b. Do you feel like you overcame them, or are they still having repercussions that impact your relationship today?
- 2. Nate reiterates the importance of listening to one's spouse instead of immediately trying to reassure them or solve the problem. (See Proverbs 18:3.)
 - a. Is that something you feel you're good at, or could you do better?
 - b. What do you think that reveals about your personality?



3.	"You feel the tension in your home." (See Proverbs 28:13.) a. Have you experienced this firsthand?
	b. If you later revealed or confessed what you were hiding, how did that unburdening make you feel?
4.	Has your spouse ever done something relatively minor that hurt you, for which you withheld forgiveness for a few days? (See Ephesians 4:32.)
	a. Why did you withhold forgiveness, and how did you feel when you finally offered it?
5.	How has your spouse changed over the course of your relationship, and would you say you've been accepting of those changes?
6.	How have you changed over the course of your relationship, and how has it affected the way the two of you relate to one another?
7•	Can you think of a time when a difficult problem or disagreement arose between you and your spouse, and the two of you resolved it constructively and compassionately? (See Colossians 3:12.)
	a. What did you learn from that experience that you think would be worth sharing with other people in relationships?