



MAKING TIME FOR MARRIAGE IN THE MILITARY – PART ONE

with Jake and Emily Pettit

▶ FOCUS VERSES

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

▶ DISCUSSION

1. **When you and your spouse decided to get married, how did your family react?**
 - a. Were they supportive, and if so, how did they show it?
 - b. What about your spouse's family?
 - c. Have their reactions, positive or negative, had any effect on your relationship since then?

2. **Emily says that their frequent moves have caused her and Jake to bond in interesting ways because they've been each other's "only constant." (See *Genesis 2:24*.)**
 - a. Have there been times in your life when your spouse was the one "constant" you could rely on and find reassurance in?
 - b. Did that cause you to appreciate new things about your spouse you might not have noticed before?



- 3. What have you learned about your spouse's strengths and weaknesses over the course of your relationship?**
 - a. What has your spouse learned about yours?
 - b. Has that knowledge strengthened your relationship, or has it been a source of tension?

- 4. Are there any duties or responsibilities you were reluctant to trust your spouse with early in your relationship?**
 - a. What do you think was the source of your reluctance?
 - b. Have you become more comfortable with your spouse being involved with those responsibilities in the years since?
 - c. If not, what are some things you and your spouse could do to build that trust?

- 5. Of the five “love languages”—acts of service, gift-giving, physical touch, quality time, and words of affirmation—which does your spouse prefer you to speak, and which do you prefer them to speak to you?**
 - a. Do you think you and your spouse have done a good job of speaking these “languages” to each other?
 - b. If this isn't a question you've ever given much thought to, why not?

- 6. When the quantity of time you're able to spend with your spouse isn't great, what sorts of things do you do to ensure that the time you do have is quality time?**
 - a. To look at it another way, how do you and your spouse keep from feeling “detached” from one another when you're separated by distance or major responsibilities?

