



## MAKING A MILITARY MARRIAGE WORK – PART TWO

with Jim and Tabitha Pooler

### ▶ FOCUS VERSES

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
1 Corinthians 13:7

### ▶ DISCUSSION

#### 1. Have you ever served in the military?

- a. If so, did you have any romantic relationships during your service?
- b. Or have you ever been in a relationship with someone who was serving?
- c. How did military obligations present challenges to those relationships?

#### 2. If not, have you been exposed to military relationships in your family or friend circle?

- a. What sorts of things have you noticed about those relationships that really made an impression on you?

#### 3. Have you ever spent a long period of time apart from your spouse/partner?

- a. What was the situation, and how did the distance change the way the two of you communicated?



b. What sorts of things did you do to adapt to the situation?

**4. Building off of question #3, did the distance make you appreciate your spouse more in any way?**

a. Did it cause friction between the two of you?

**5. Did you endure any major challenges while you were apart?**

a. How did the distance make the emotional toll of those challenges more acute, and how did you respond?

**6. Describe the way you often deal with life setbacks or family tragedies. Then describe the way your spouse/partner deals with those same situations.**

a. Are your methods for dealing with those situations similar or very different?

b. If they're different, does that help the two of you fill needs for one another, or does it cause tension?

**7. Try Jim's thought exercise of imagining your eventual retirement ceremony and all the people who will be there.**

a. Which people will be there mainly out of obligation, and which people will be there because they want to be?

b. How do you demonstrate to the people in the latter group that they're important to you?

