



Reflections
DATE NIGHT IN BOX

FAITH DISCUSSION GUIDE

Discussion Guide

It is God's promise to you that as you continue to love each other and seek His wisdom in your relationship, He will reveal Himself to you in beautiful ways. Be sure to have your Bible handy to look up scripture. If you don't have access to one, check out the Bible Gateway app available on your Apple or Android device. For a custom Date Night In Box - Faith playlist featuring Christian artists, visit datenightinbox.com/faith.

As you enjoy your Date Night In Box tonight, you are reflecting on the path that your relationship has taken. Through this faith discussion guide we want to focus your attention on the first love story ever written - the story of Adam and Eve. Have you ever thought about what the word "*honeymoon*" means? The term seems to have been coined to convey the idea that the first moon, or first month, of marriage is the sweetest and most satisfying. But that's not exactly the way God intended it to be. God would be pleased for our relationships to get better as time passes; every new month sweeter and more satisfying than the last.

Both being molded by the Master Creator Himself, and being truly faultless in every sense of the word, Adam and Eve had a relationship of perfect purity and innocence. There was no sin or strife between them. This was truly the perfect marriage. But then the entrance of sin came. Satan's first approach was to question God. "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" (Gen. 3:1). After he questioned God's Word, he flatly denied it: "You surely shall not die!" he declared (Gen. 3:4). Finally, he ridiculed God and distorted His Word: "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:5). Satan's methods have not changed much through the centuries. We know them well—the doubts, the distortions, the denials.

Satan sometimes uses pure things to lure us from God's will. Eve was tempted in three major areas: the lust of the flesh—"good for food", the lust of the eyes—"a delight to the eyes", and the pride of life—"to make one wise." These are the same major areas Satan uses to derail us from our walk with God and with each other—the desire to gratify our physical senses, the desire to have material things, and the desire to impress people with our importance. Eve did not run from temptation. "She took from its fruit and ate" (Gen. 3:6). The text is not clear, but the words "gave also to her husband with her" might imply that Adam watched her do it. We have no idea why he did not try to stop her, or why he did not refuse to follow her in her sin. Regardless, he failed her sorrowfully by neglecting to provide spiritual leadership. What a powerful influence, women, that you can have over your man! You can use it to challenge him to new heights of spiritual growth, or you can use it to drag him to depths of shame.

Take a moment to discuss these questions with one another:

1. In what ways could Satan use the desire to satisfy physical needs to affect your relationship? How about the desire for material things? The desire to be well thought of by others?

2. In what ways can you as a wife challenge your husband to higher goals? In what ways is it possible for you to weaken and destroy your husband?
3. What can you do to help keep from blaming your problems on each other?

Finally, we witness the painful aftermath. For Eve, the pain of childbirth would be a recurring reminder of her sin. She would also experience an insatiable yearning for her husband, a piercing desire for his time, attention, affection, and assurance. Her need would be so great; her sinful husband would rarely be willing to meet it. And finally, the authority Adam possessed over Eve from creation was strengthened by the word rule. "And he shall rule over you" (Gen. 3:16). In the hands of a sinful man, that rule would corrupt at times to harsh and heartless authority over her—disregard for her feelings and disdain for her opinions. For Adam, cultivating the ground became an endless, tedious chore. Anxiety over his ability to provide for his family added to his agitation and irritability and made him less sympathetic to his wife's needs.

As a result, conflict entered their home. Sin always leads to conflict. The honeymoon was over! This would be the saddest story ever told, but God was not done with them yet. God promised that the seed of the woman, a child born into the human race, would destroy the works of the devil. He fulfills this promise by dying for the sins of the world. His perfect blood is a covering for the sins of every person who will trust Him. He offers to forgive us freely and restore us to His favor. God can give you, husbands, the same tender love and unselfish consideration that Adam had for Eve before they sinned. He can give you, wives, the same encouraging helpfulness and sweet submissiveness that Eve had toward Adam before the Fall. In other words, the honeymoon can begin again. There is no hope for a marital relationship to become all it can be until we have the assurance of forgiveness and acceptance by God. That assurance can only be experienced when we have acknowledged our sin and placed our trust in Jesus Christ's perfect sacrifice.

End your discussion guide with the following discussion questions:

1. In what ways can you model God's forgiveness and acceptance in your relationship?
2. What practical, biblical things can you use to make the 'honeymoon' phase last?

A Prayer For You to Say Together

Lord, I acknowledge my sin to You. I believe that Jesus Christ died to deliver me from sin's guilt, sin's penalty and sin's control of my life. I here and now place my trust in Him as my personal Savior from sin and receive Him into my life. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming into my life and forgiving my sin.

Amen