

# *Holiday Idea Card*

## **New Year's**

### **Strong Marriage Annual Plan**

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#### **Best Use**

As a date night discussion guide.

#### **Goal**

Every married couple needs to be intentional in several areas to foster a great God-honoring relationship. The goal of this date night is to help you plan what activities and time slots to protect during the coming twelve months to build a strong marriage. Make sure you come away from this date night with specific dates and times on your calendar to make sure that a strong marriage trumps other commitments that might get in the way.

#### **Advance Preparation**

- Schedule a dinner or coffee date on (or within a few days of) New Years
- Make sure you have a calendar ready!
- Each spouse should spend time in prayer identifying several priorities to put on the calendar for the upcoming year. (See the backside of this card for ideas!)



## Strong Marriage Priorities

Discuss the following questions together, discern what is most needed in the context of your relationship, and make sure to put it on your schedules and stick to it!

**Question:** How will we protect routine times for non task-driven communication?

- ☐ Schedule an evening walk together twice weekly
- ☐ Schedule a date night twice monthly
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** Should we read a book, attend a class, or seek guidance to improve a specific area of our marriage?

- ☐ Shared vision and goals
- ☐ Better communication
- ☐ Romantic intimacy
- ☐ Managing money
- ☐ Parenting the kids
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** When do we think we will feel most stressed during the coming year so we can plan a weekend get-away together to recharge our batteries and rekindle romance? \_\_\_\_\_

Where would we like to go that we can afford? \_\_\_\_\_

Who could watch the kids? \_\_\_\_\_

What activities could we do "just for fun?" \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** How can we help each other improve physically and emotionally?

- ☐ Work out together
- ☐ Eat out less often to cook healthy meals at home
- ☐ Give each other time alone with God by watching kids, etc.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** When will we incorporate the habit of praying together into our relationship?

- ☐ At the end of evening walks twice weekly
- ☐ Before going to sleep each night
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

