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## LESSON C

### Roles and Marriage

**FOCUS:** Examine the different roles that are associated with marriage and how to prepare for them.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Students will examine their role expectations in marriage. Use Student Handout, "Roles in Marriage." Ask the students, "Will your roles change depending on who you marry?" For example, what if you expect to stay home and take care of the children but your husband doesn't make enough money, or you get divorced, or your spouse dies, how will these situations affect your roles. Or, what if you expect to have a job while your wife stays home, but you marry someone who wants a career and doesn't want to stay home with the children, how will that change your role. Discuss with the students what they can do to prepare now for the expected and unexpected roles that might have to fill in a marriage relationship.
2. Have students imagine a five year reunion for their graduating class. What kind of position do they expect to be in five years from now? Write their own scenario and have a friend write one for them. Discuss the differences between the two. Use Student Handout for activity 2.

# Roles in Marriage

Some couples like to share different marital duties or roles. Others have specific expectations and split duties up between husband and wife. Who do you think should do the following?

- a = husband entirely
- b = husband more than wife
- c = husband and wife equally
- d = wife more than husband
- e = wife entirely

- \_\_\_ Housekeeping
- \_\_\_ Yard work
- \_\_\_ Home repairs
- \_\_\_ Earning a living
- \_\_\_ Decide how money is spent
- \_\_\_ Initiate sexual activity
- \_\_\_ Organize and start family
- \_\_\_ Recreation
- \_\_\_ Keeping in touch with relatives
- \_\_\_ Caring for children
- \_\_\_ Teaching and training children
- \_\_\_ Disciplining children

If you and your spouse agree about how to fill roles, there should be few conflicts. However, spouses often do not agree on ideal roles and sometimes life prevents the filling of ideal roles. You may have to compromise and negotiate to find the roles that are right for you and your spouse as well as your life circumstances.

Part of what young people expect from marriage comes from observing their own parents' marriage. Observe how your parents fill the roles listed above. Talk to another adult couple whom you admire and ask them about a specific role.

## Journal Entry #2



*How do I see my roles changing when I marry?*

Question	Your Parents	Another Couple
Who does house-keeping chores?		
Have you always filled housekeeping roles the same way?		
Have you ever experienced conflict about housekeeping roles?		
How did you negotiate the problem?		

In the space below, write your own scenario—how you envision your life 5 years from now. Write one for a friend and have a friend write one for you in the second space.

Your Scenario

Your Friend's Description  
of Your Scenario

What are the differences?