



Keeping It Running

OPENING QUESTIONS

- 1. Recall a time, if you can, when you "fell in love", perhaps for the first time. How would you describe the result of that experience: superficial?...life-changing?...going down in flames?... heart-breaking?...lasting and sincere?
- 2. Was there anything in the message you really liked, disagreed with, or confused you?

IN THE WORD

- 1. Read John 13:34-35. Pastor Carter challenged us to see love as an action rather than just as an emotion. Is it easier for you to express love as an emotion or an action? Why?
- 2. Philippians 2:3 encourages us to get rid of self-seeking glory (vain conceit)—a tendency to expect others to provide more than we deserve. What specific steps can we take toward accomplishing this?
- 3. The word "think" or "consider" is used often in the book of Philippians. Even though you have as much value as others, he asks you to humbly think or consider them as more important. Why does he expect this?
- 4. Similarly, Philippians 2:4 tells us to pay attention to the concerns others, not just our own. Does the pace of life at work, home, or school affect this?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

- 1. Which do you think would be more helpful to you in a marriage relationship?
 - a. Encourage the emotions and compassion of love.
 - b. Bolster and strengthen love in action.
- 2. For many of us, the longer we are in any relationship, the more tempting it is to take the other for granted. How does this affect what you think your spouse deserves from you, or what you deserve and expect from your spouse?
- 3. His expectation that you consider others more important than yourself can surely be applied to a spouse as well as to other relationships. Is this harder to do with your spouse than it is with other, less intimate, relationships such as coworkers, friends, extended family, etc.? Why or why not.
- 4. The five "love languages" were mentioned: physical touch, giving of gifts, words of affirmation, quality time, and acts of service. Do you feel that you understand and act on the language of your spouse? Does this help you in finding ways to serve your spouse?
- 5. Oftentimes, sexuality in modern culture is seen and portrayed as a tool for self-gratification rather than for mutual care. Have you had to challenge this thinking in your marriage? Has your attitude changed through the years?

Notes & Prayers

