

Chart Explanation

“Being happily and successfully married is generally not so much a matter of marrying the right person as it is *being the right person*. The conscious effort to do one’s part *fully* is the greatest element contributing to success.” President Howard W. Hunter

This chart is something we do with our kids, but as I was preparing the lesson about marriage I thought this might be a fun idea to try with our wives. If nothing else, I hope this chart encourages you to at least discuss your marriage with your wife and ways you can be a more positively responsive and attentive husband.

The concept is simple—every time you are asked to do something and you immediately say “Sure Wife” (or you do something without being asked) you can mark the chart. If you hesitate at all—no mark. Some tasks might be worth more than one spot; you can negotiate this with your wife. When you reach a happy face, you get a reward; the middle of the chart a big reward; and the end of the chart a really big reward. The big rewards should be things that are very motivating.

Once you are finished with the chart you can do it all over again.

In relation to the chart, here are some thoughts, suggestions, and comments:

DO NOT SUGGEST YOUR WIFE DO THE SAME THING—even if your wife offers—maybe that will come later. This is about you serving her.

TASKS (suggestions)—one mark tasks might be picking up the downstairs, giving three sincere compliments, changing a diaper, or taking out the trash. Two mark tasks might be doing the dishes or watching the kids for an hour. Three mark tasks might be coming home early from work, a love letter, making (not buying) dinner, meeting your wife for lunch, or planning a date. The chart should take at least a month or so to get through so don’t be too generous. In addition to all the regular things, ask your wife if there is something in particular you can do for her throughout this chart (a habit you might want/need to develop) and choose a mark amount for this action.

REWARDS—my suggestion on the rewards is to *let your wife pick them and keep them a surprise*. You may want to give her a few suggestions, but let her surprise you. You might even want her to wrap the surprises up (they could just contain a description) so that you can choose and open when you hit a smiley face. Rewards can be a guilt-free Saturday afternoon, a favorite meal or dessert, a date you don’t have to plan, a massage, etc. You get the idea.

PENALTIES—there aren’t any. You should not be penalized for bad behavior—only rewarded for good behavior.

DON’T SPEND MONEY—you don’t need to. You may spend a little on things here or there, but the idea is to give of yourself—for both tasks and rewards.

I hope this is helpful and helps you think a little bit more about each other in a positive way.

