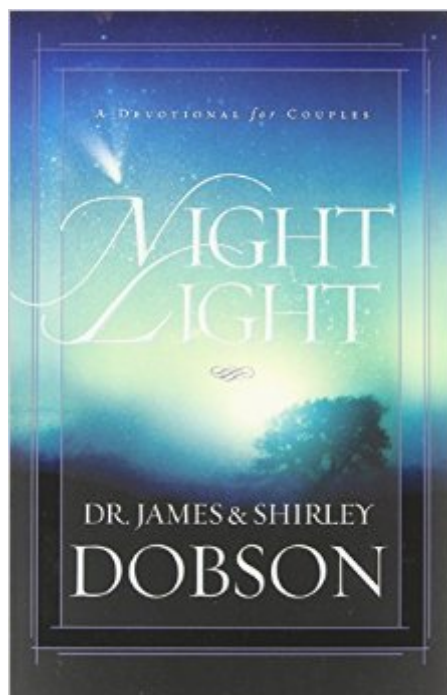


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Night Light: A Devotional For Couples



Synopsis

Now for the first time in softcover! Whether you're just married or are celebrating your golden anniversary, you need regular, quiet moments with your mate—times to renew love and intimacy with each other and with the Lord. *Night Light*, by Dr. James Dobson and his wife, Shirley, will help you do just that. This daily devotional offers the personal, practical, and biblical insights that have sustained the Dobsons' marriage for forty years and encouraged couples and families around the world. Let *Night Light* enrich your marriage too—tonight and every night.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I came across this devotional in the bookstore a few weeks ago and was initially attracted to the book because the salesperson said that she was getting great feedback about the book and that they were selling very well. After spending more time with the book, I can see why. This devotional strikes a nice balance of being thoughtful and thought provoking without getting too intense. To be honest, through the course of our marriage we have tried several devotionals with mixed success: we found some dry and boring, others trite and kind of goofy, and many overly ambitious so that devotional time just felt too much like work! Dobson's collection is balanced—the selections are manageable in length, yet meaningful in content. When it does include a few discussion questions, they are good ones that open up interesting and important conversations. Also the format of the devotionals vary. Some may tell a story illustrating a point, others are more general and comment on a particular area in marriage, so that the overall feel of the book is not too formulaic. If you are

looking for a new devotional to build your marriage, a book that will open up areas for discussion, I think that you will be quite pleased with this one.

My husband and I love this book, we have read it together several times, and always give it as a wedding gift to every wedding we attend. It may not be as in depth as some marriage devotionals, but it is an encouragement, and makes you appreciate your spouse a little more each time you read it. My husband and I have a wonderful relationship, and sometimes it is very hard to read devotionals that are always talking about sadness, dispare, and dread. This is a pick me up compared to so many others. It is also a great devotional for couples with out children. We do not have any children, and some devotionals every other page discusses how children effect your relationship. This one does not focus there quite as much. It is more directed toward you and your spouse.

This book is just what the couple on the go needs. I never would have believed that my husband would actually enjoy reading with me, but this book includes something for the husband and the wife. It takes less than 10 minutes each night and it makes a lasting impression on each of you. It is based on the bible, but puts the ideas into ways that they may be implemented in daily life. We are in the early stages in the book and we can both tell a difference in our attitudes toward our marriage and our family. I can't wait to get further into the book!

Sometimes I wonder if I read the same books that others rate as five stars. I personally think that five stars are too frequently given, particularly when we consider that the vast majority of books are simply average. I was hopeful that "Night Light" would be above run-of-the-mill, but it really isn't. It's a fair book, but nothing else. (And please note that I am not a "Focus on the Family" basher. I think that ministry has helped bring many important topics to the fore. As a born-again Christian, I take seriously all the issues raised by that ministry and this book.) Billed as being a unique daily devotional for Christian couples, it covers six months with each day comprised of a Bible verse, the Dobsons' thoughts about the verse as it relates to married couples' lives, a few questions to share together, and a closing prayer. Pretty standard fare for a devotional. We've found the book to be written for couples that have extremely traditional marriage roles, but a growing number of couples (who are, by all means, traditional evangelical Christians) do not fit that mold. Generalizations about what the sexes are like in this book, unfortunately, are sadly stereotypical, too. Here, the Dobsons come across as stuck in another era. Now I am all for conserving the things that are great about America, Christianity, and family, but the authors seem to be writing more for their contemporaries,

couples that have paralleled their own marriage experience. In short, if you don't match the Dobsons point for point in your marriage situation, the differences become glaring, becoming a focal point for incomplete application of their ideas. Frankly, we've had quibbles with some of the theology, too. The book starts with an exposition of the old "I'm Third" idea - God first, others second, self third. We're not convinced this is biblical. Certainly God first is true, but doesn't Jesus say to "Love our neighbor as ourself" rather than to "Love our neighbor more than ourself"? It's obvious that deference to another's needs is key to any marriage, but it is all too frequent to find the balance tipping in one direction more than another. This can easily leave one spouse coming up short under the Dobsons' ideology. A godly husband needs to love his wife AND love himself in equal measure, and likewise the wife needs the same perspective from her point of view. The questions asked during the devotional are many times pointless or do not provide any ideas for followup. In the section on prayer, for example, it is asked "Do you sometimes feel that the Lord is not listening when you pray?" Suppose that one or both answers that affirmatively. Then what? The Dobsons provide no help here except to get you to move on to the next question (which, in this case, has nothing to do with that previous question.) As a Christian Educator myself, I find that particularly galling. Examples like this abound in the book. And there are also plenty of leading questions that if answered in a fashion not in keeping with the authors' leading guide the users into a dead-end. The questions need to be better thought out. Adding helps for couples who disagree on some points is something I would also consider essential, but is sorely missing. While any spiritual help in today's world is helpful, "Night Light" seems geared a bit low. If you've been Christians for any length of time, you probably have seen large swatches of everything here before. Because of this, after a while you start approaching the day's devotional dutifully rather than with any expectation. Too many books for couples suffer from this (so "Night Life" isn't that extraordinary in this regard.) They seem as if they were written for couples that have never talked about anything important during their entire marriage. Are couples this bad off? At times after reading some blatantly obvious point the authors expressed as some new revelation, my wife and I just kind of gave each other a look as if to say, "Are they serious?" That usually spells doom for books of this kind. In short, the book breaks no new ground, boasts a very limited viewpoint that doesn't work well for all couples, and is average all the way around. But this is not to say "Night Light" has no value. It would probably work very well for newlyweds, couples that are new in their Christian walk, or for couples that have never read any marital improvement books. Otherwise, skip the devotional and simply spend more time in prayer together.

Got this to strengthen me and my mans relationship spiritually and emotionally and am leaving very dissatisfied. It contains several stories, some silly, some serious, some sweet, but most in which left us confused. We have been earnestly looking for a devotional that will really dig into scripture and help strengthen us as people and closer to the Lord. Many times we walked away from these readings feeling it was focused on being a "feel good read" or light hearted story, when really we want to grow and learn. It has very minimal scripture and even biblical principles. We don't want to bash the book completely as we feel they had the right idea, but wrongly executed. This book is good for couples who want a little boost to help in communication and learning the basics of relationships, but not for couples who really want to dig deep in their faith and spiritual relationship with one another.

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