

Planning for the Unexpected

Life is unpredictable. People make poor choices. Natural disasters occur sporadically and unexpectedly. Things don't go according to plans. Stuff happens even to the happiest of couples.

To avoid being blindsided by the unexpected, couples must plan for it. Combining a flexible attitude with a knowledge that God has a plan through all circumstances will assure couples that they can overcome most anything life brings their way.

Below is a list of real life events that could occur in anyone's life or marriage. Describe how each would affect you and your mate. Then think about how you would overcome these events. Determine if they will strengthen the marriage, or threaten to weaken it. (For this exercise, events occur after getting married).

LIFE EVENTS	How could this affect you personally?	How could this affect your mate?	Describe steps to overcome this unexpected event.	Will this make your marriage stronger or weaker?
<i>Your mate is laid off from work and is unable to find work in their field.</i>				
<i>The wife unexpectedly gets pregnant on the honeymoon.</i>				
<i>You are unable to conceive children together due to infertility.</i>				
<i>Your mate is diagnosed with cancer and given two years to live.</i>				
<i>You are involved in an accident and paralyzed from the waist down.</i>				
<i>Your 7-year old child is diagnosed with a life threatening disease.</i>				
<i>Your mate has a chemical imbalance that leads to depression and gains 75 pounds.</i>				
<i>A fire destroys your home and all its contents while your family is on vacation.</i>				