

## OPENING PRAYER

Ask the engaged persons to each say one word that captures something they love about each other.

Notes...

Begin the prayer by inviting everyone to a moment of silence to reflect in gratitude on the goodness that their words for each other represent.

**Continue the prayer with these or similar words:** Today's session will focus on the top emotional needs that married couples meet for each other. Marriage challenges the temptation in us to be selfish. In marriage, the happiness of my spouse is my concern. Marriage succeeds to the degree that each person can focus more on the needs of the other than on their own without sacrificing their own needs.

Think about that as you listen to this short reading from the Bible in which St. Paul talks about living for others. (Invite each engaged person to read the reading aloud.)

### **Adapted from Philippians 2:2-4**

...be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit...

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of the other. (NRSV)

**Continue with these or similar words:** We are called to live for the other and hand over our needs to the other.

**Closing:** Loving God, we thank you for the gift of generosity. Teach us to build unity in our marriage by generously doing good things for each other every day. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.