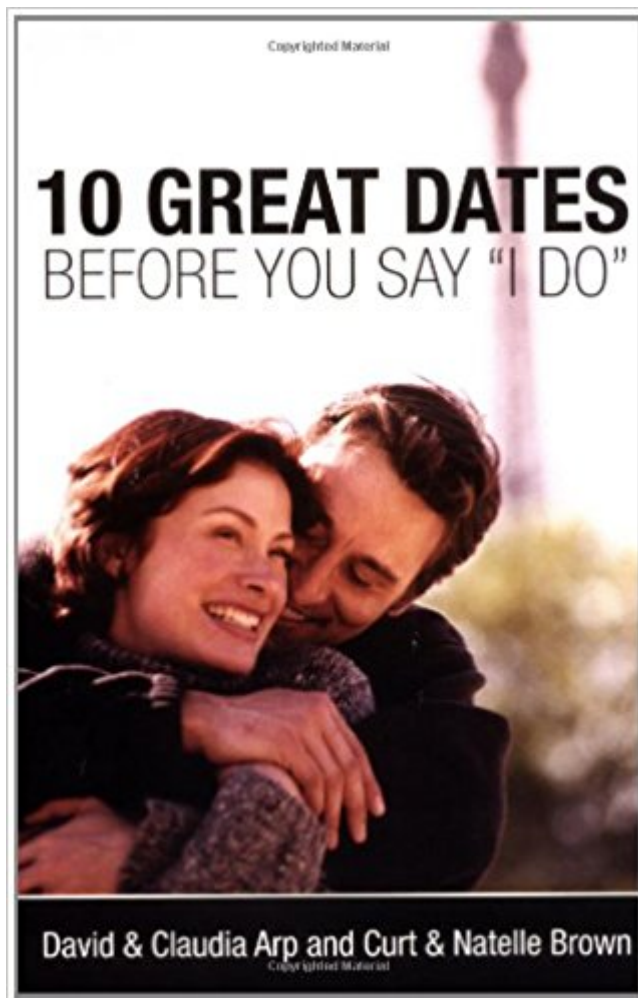


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# 10 Great Dates Before You Say "I Do"





## Synopsis

10 Fun, Innovative Relationship-Building Dates for Seriously Dating and Engaged Couples! 10 Great Dates Before You Say 'I Do' • combines the best of marriage preparation research with a fun, easy-to-follow format. Couples will love growing together while going out together. Share your hopes and dreams Appreciate your differences Communicate and connect Develop spiritual intimacy Evaluate your relationship Celebrate romance And more!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

10 Fun, Innovative Relationship-Building Dates for Seriously Dating and Engaged Couples! 10 Great Dates Before You Say 'I Do' combines the best of marriage preparation research with a fun, easy-to-follow format. Couples will love growing together while going out together. Share your hopes and dreams Appreciate your differences Communicate and connect Develop spiritual intimacy Evaluate your relationship Celebrate romance And more!

Claudia Arp and David Arp, MSW, founders of Marriage Alive, are authors of numerous books with more than 1,000,000 in print including the award-winning 10 Great Dates series and The Second Half of Marriage. The Arps have been featured in media like The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Time Magazine, and on NBC Today, CBS This Morning, and PBS. When they are not writing or speaking, you'll probably find them hiking trails in Northern Virginia where they live or in the Austrian Alps where they love to write and hike. Visit them at [www.10GreatDates.org](http://www.10GreatDates.org).  
Curt and Natelle Brown, MA, MFT, are directors of marriage ministry at Wellshire Presbyterian



Church in Denver, Colorado, and advisors to the Colorado Marriage Project. They are experienced mentors to engaged couples, marriage coaches to newlyweds, and developers of the Marriage Alive "Before You Say 'I Do'" seminar. Curt and Natelle Brown, MA, MFT, are directors of marriage ministry at Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado, and advisors to the Colorado Marriage Project. They are experienced mentors to engaged couples, marriage coaches to newlyweds, and developers of the Marriage Alive "Before You Say 'I Do'" seminar.

I think that sometimes people get so caught up with the idea of marriage they forget to address the things that can make or break the relationship. This book helps to pull all of those things to the front. It really helped my friend to ask the important questions almost like marriage counseling and dealing with the important things upfront in a more playful setting besides waiting until you are in the heat of the moment saying things you can't take back. I am not married but I analyze things in length to ensure I am not taking situations lightly, Give it as a gift to a friend (male or female) that thinks they are on that path,

As a church, we have been using this excellent dating guide as a marriage prep course for the past decade. Couples go on a themed date, answer questionnaires that get them chatting away, the great date guide provides lots of fun and creative ideas for places to go. Afterwards, We as a mentoring couple discuss questions and help the couple understand the implications for marriage. We have had couples amiably decide that they aren't really for each other, which was a blessing too! All couples loved this course and we are conducting many marriages every year!!!

My boyfriend and I bought this book off after seeing it at our church's bookstore. We have seriously been thinking about getting engaged and we thought this book would be one tool to help us make that decision. I love how its easy to read and easy to follow. It definitely gives you a chance to discover each others decision making process as it contains to financial issues, communitaion issues and wants annd needs out of life. The chapters are nice and short; it was also very helpful to have suggestions on where to go on each date as it pertains to the topics and topic sentences to help jump start the conversation. It's a great excuse to go on 10 dates and REALLY get to know each other.

Our church held a series of classes for this book for both married and engaged couples in which we would watch a short video for each chapter that comes with the leadership guide. Each couple



bought a copy of this book and then weekly the church held a date night for each chapter while providing babysitting. After watching the video and having a short discussion, the couples were able to leave the church for several hours to have their private dates and then return to pick up their children when their dates were over. We thoroughly enjoyed the series and thought that the concept was excellent for all couples whether you are simply dating a partner, engaged, or married. My husband and I have done other self-help marriage enrichment guides and this one was one of the best that we have done. Now, I don't know that it was reinventing the wheel or anything, there were no groundbreaking concepts, but it was a common sense approach and way to re-evaluate your relationship. For married couples with kids I think this is especially beneficial because it encourages you to take the time together to go on dates to have time away from your children. In this sense it can strengthen your relationship and put the "spark back in your marriage." Also, while it suggests date ideas, they are not rigid. In other words, it is a book of concepts of each date rather than the exact date that you are supposed to do. This is beneficial because then you and your partner can tailor each date to what you enjoy doing together. As someone who believes in self and relationship improvement and thoroughly enjoyed the experiences fostered by this book, I have no complaints.

**PROS:** Common sense, clear, concise approach  
Great for couples in any stage of their relationships  
Helps prioritize your relationship and time spent together to strengthen your relationship  
No gender stereotyping like other relationship books  
Book can be used again- you can go through the ten date process later in your relationship to enrich it  
Helps encourage bonding and romance individualized to what you and your partner enjoy doing

**CONS:** None in my opinion

This book was ok. It may be good for some couples, but I found it to be more fluff than a deep read. It does have some good date ideas and a program that you can follow. It may be good for some couples and not for others. I found this book to be a quick read that just stirred some thoughts.

I really enjoyed going through this book with my now husband and it was a great way to have new conversations about our goals but also to see that we really did know each other well and could appreciate that the other knew us. It feels balanced and covers many issues that are important in entering marriage. As a social worker, I like that it was written by social workers!

Great Purchase! I want to buy this book for my friends who are in serious relationships and newly married too! If you have the right mindset going into it that yes, although these are "date" nights yet you still will be having serious conversations...some which might be a little more tense than others.



Ultimately though, they are things that should and need to be discussed before taking your relationship to the next level. My boyfriend and I have really enjoyed even the ritual of setting a specific time each week to have uninterrupted time together. I'm so glad I bought this book.

This book is both helpful and touching. It fosters communication, and covers many topics that are often ignored yet absolutely need to be discussed before marriage. This is a great resource for any couple exploring long-term commitment. It is set up in a really useful way that has you explore topics by yourself before discussing them together. This allows you to form separate opinions before convening, which can lead to some really great idea building. I am thoroughly impressed with the 10 dates and feel as though it is a necessity for any couple.

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