

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” -- First Corinthians

Sitting in church next to Tom, Marge felt more lonely and hopeless than she had ever felt in her life. She loved Tom deeply and knew he loved her. Thinking back, she felt so proud and elated when he first noticed her and later when he asked her to marry him. They were happy. They laughed, went on walks together and enjoyed cooking and sports together.

Then Tom lost his job. He retreated into the basement to watch television late into the night. He wouldn't talk to her or come to bed with her. Marge thought, "It's me. He's not attracted to me anymore." Whenever Marge tried to talk to Tom about her loneliness or her worries about money, they ended up yelling at each other. Their children, Jess, John and Sarah, also struggled. They seemed sad, their grades quickly went downhill and they spent evenings in their rooms.

Marge knew the happiness of her family depended on the couple's relationship, so she made a call to Samaritan Counseling Center.

Samaritan Counseling Center is committed to teaching skills necessary to build long-term committed marriages, including offering premarital education. Skills, such as repair remarks, a softer start-up and building positive sentiment, can be learned – skills that can improve communications, build and strengthen friendships and rekindle romance.

Now Marge and Tom realize how much they have to be grateful for and have concrete skills to enrich their relationship.

If your marriage needs a tune-up or skills building so it can withstand a job loss, financial stress, health problems or other family issues, call 402-483-5117. Or for more information about the center, visit their Web site at www.SamaritanCenter.com.

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