

cation program at the church for people who wanted to become reacquainted with their faith. “I would have done this on my own,” says Emilie. “But feeling in partnership with Alex about the importance of giving something back to my community and my church has made it an even more rewarding experience. I feel renewed not just in my faith but in my marriage as well.”

SHARED GOALS QUESTIONNAIRE

To get a sense of how well you create shared meaning through goals, read each of the following statements and circle T for “true” or F for “false.”

1. We share many of the same goals. **T F**
2. If I were to look back on my life in very old age, I think I would see that our paths had meshed very well. **T F**
3. My partner values my accomplishments. **T F**
4. My partner honors the personal goals I have that are unrelated to our marriage. **T F**
5. We share many of the same goals for others who are important to us (children, kin, friends, and community). **T F**
6. We have very similar financial goals. **T F**
7. We tend to have compatible worries about potential financial disasters. **T F**
8. Our hopes and aspirations, as individuals and together, for our children, for our life in general, and for our old age are quite compatible. **T F**
9. Our life dreams tend to be similar or compatible. **T F**
10. Even when they are different, we have been able to find a way to honor our life dreams. **T F**

Scoring: Give yourself 1 point for each “true” answer. If you score below 3, your relationship could stand some improvement in this area. Turn to the shared-meaning exercise that begins on page 272, and focus on the “goals” section.