**MINISTERIAL SPOUSES’ CURRICULUM GUIDE: LECTURES**

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**Lesson 20**

**Ministerial Spouse Rap Session Ideas**

**SOMETHING’S ON MY MIND**

1. “I believe that the minister’s wife is in need of help. This applies to all—minister, spouse, and children. Because the divorce rate among the clergy is well below the national average, a false impression that all is well with the families of the clergy has developed. And even with the increase of divorce among the clergy, there still seems to be a belief that clergy marriages are less vulnerable to problems. This is not true. Ministry is a strain even on a strong marriage.” *The Walk-on-Water Syndrome. P. 84*

a. In what ways is ministry a strain on the pastor’s family.

b. What can the pastor and spouse do to lessen the strain on their family?

c. What recommendations can you make to a young ministerial couple to help them face the inevitable stress of the ministry?

2. There is the need for a delicate balance between what we should and should not share with church members about our personal struggles.

a. What are some examples of things we could share with church members?

b. What are some examples of things we should not share with church members?

3. Pastors and spouses are often beset by depression.

a. What are some of the more common sources of depression in ministry families?

b. How can a wife help a depressed husband?

c. What remedies could you offer to a depressed spouse?

4. What workable recommendations can you make to your administration (Mission, Conference, Union) to assist pastors and their spouse find greater fulfillment and deeper meaning in the ministry?