



KEEPING THE

LOVE ALIVE

across the miles

brenda marlin

Ideas for Keeping the Love Connection Alive Across the Miles

By Brenda Marlin

1. Ask God how you can creatively minister to your husband's needs while he is away.
2. Pray for each other while talking together on a phone or internet call, or by sending prayers via email. Use specific Scripture to pray over each other as well.
3. Write your husband and tell him how he reminds you of a great hero in the Bible. Be sure to be specific in sharing similar traits such as courage, compassion, warrior, passion, etc.
4. Send pictures of yourself to your husband at various times while he is away.
5. Ask your heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus, to take you into a deeper place of intimacy with Him while your earthly bridegroom is away.
6. Take some tasteful glamorous pictures taken prior to his leaving, and then send them with him.
7. Before he leaves, write little love notes and secretly tuck them away in various places in your husband's bags. (note: do not tuck away any food or items, which could be confiscated and cause embarrassment to him)
8. Handwrite an encouraging letter to your husband everyday (at least weekly) to make sure he receives mail.
9. Send your husband a care packages with his favorite baked items and something that he enjoys having, such as a special soap, food item, etc.
10. For his birthday, make a large, cake-sized brownie and place hard candy letters on it, which says "Happy Birthday". Be sure to send candles, plates, napkins and plastic forks so he can share it with his fellow workers.
11. Show your respect for your husband by telling him how proud you are of him. Share with him examples of how you brag on him to your girlfriends.
12. Plan a "date" with your husband and meet at a pre-designated web site and read a short article and discuss it over the phone or internet call. (May I suggest www.5lovelanguages.com or Family Life at www.fltoday.org?)
13. "Meet" at a pre-designated web site that describes a vacation destination you would like to go to when he returns from his deployment.
14. Read a book together; a chapter per week and discuss it the next time you talk with each other.
15. Talk about the things you love and admire about your husband in a letter or during one of your phone or internet calls.
16. Remind your husband of the things that attracted you to him when you first met.
17. Next time you have your hair cut, save a lock of it and send it to him.
18. Spray some perfume that you normally wear on a card or piece of fabric and send it to your husband. Be sure to seal your card with a kiss (wear some lipstick when you do this.)
19. Find out what each other's love language is. (See #11 above)
20. Connect with your husband's family and ask them to share recipes that were meaningful to them when he was growing up. Make up a family recipe book and tell him about it.
21. Record yourself reading some of your favorite poems and send it to your husband.
22. Write your own poem about your husband and send it to him.

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23. Get two copies of “Moments Together for Couples” a daily devotional book by Barbara and Dennis Rainey and make a commitment to read the devotion for the day and discuss together via email. (hint...you can also sign up on line to receive the daily devotional via email by going to www.flatoday.org)
24. If you have children, have them write a story or color a picture about how proud they are of their daddy. Then make up a special patriotic themed care package with red, white and blue streamers, candy, small blown up balloons, etc. to send him.
25. Look at the moon on the same day together (during the evening in your own time zones) and think about how each other can gaze at the same moon from different parts of the world).
26. Look for a star formation that both of you can see and do the same thing as above.
27. Ask your husband to share his dreams with you. Listen to him and don't try to minimize or play them down in any way. Just listen and stay interested in what he is sharing.
28. Become interested in a sport, hobby or activity your husband enjoys. Share what you are learning with him (even if you don't necessarily enjoy it yourself). Ask God to help you learn to enjoy this new activity or interest. You might even consider taking a few lessons to help you engage with him in this endeavor.
29. Take good care of yourself while he is away. You will want to look your best when he returns.
30. Become more interesting by educating yourself and sharing what you have learned with your husband. Stay up on current events. Warning, don't try to show off or compete with him.. Just be more interesting to him.
31. Learn about what he likes about you, how you dress, hairstyles, etc. Then be the best woman you can be for him.
32. Get together with other women whose husband's are deployed and brainstorm ideas with each other on how to be romantic from a distance.
33. Tell your husband how much you miss him and appreciate all he does for you. Remember, absence makes the heart grow fonder.
34. Let your husband know how much you need him in your life. Don't communicate that “I can do everything without you”. Men like to be needed. It communicates respect to him.
35. Keep your husband in the loop on what is going on at home. He will feel important if you do. Try to avoid complaining about having to carry too much of the load or whining about everything breaking down, the children getting on your last nerve, etc.
36. Allow him to be your knight in shining armor...let him know ways that he has provided protection for you even while he is away.
37. Stay under his leadership and communicate ways that you do so.
38. Create a special day honoring your husband. Have family and friends send cards, emails, care packages, which communicate their support of him.
39. Walk down memory lane...put together a themed care package with memories of one of your special days that you shared together. Be careful not to overdo, because you don't want to create a feeling of sadness, but of happiness, pride and joy.
40. Plan a surprise for him by sending hints in packages or letters leading up to the final item you send him.
41. Create a coupon book for him to redeem when he is away or whenever he returns home.

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42. Send your husband a special coupon a few weeks before he comes home. He can redeem it whenever he wants after he returns home.
43. Read a book on how to improve your marriage.
44. Read a book on how to build your husband's self esteem.
45. Read a book on how to understand your husband's needs as a man.
46. Create a special place that your husband can have all to himself after he returns home. Example, decorate a room with his needs in mind. If he likes music, make it a music room. If he is a hunter, create a lodge atmosphere with fishing and hunting items, magazines, etc. Have pictures of him catching the "big one" blown up and hung on the wall. Make is "manly" looking. If you don't have a special room, consider the garage, or designated wall or space to show off his interests.
47. Make a scrapbook of things that took place while he was away. Share it with him when he returns home.
48. Wear a special clothing item of his with his cologne placed on it. I have developed a tradition of wearing my husband's denim shirt or robe around the house while my husband is away. It feels like he is hugging me when I wear it. It helps those who have a love language of "physical touch".
49. Sleep with pillows next to you so that you don't get used to having the bed all to yourself. You can spray a small amount of his cologne on the pillowcase or sachet that you place inside it. Don't replace the empty spot with a child. Your child will get used to sleeping there. When daddy returns home, your child might become fearful or resent him for taking his or her space in your bed.
50. Use a heated blanket on his side of the bed, so that the bed won't feel cold. As a side benefit, you will be used to the warmth generated from that side of your bed when your husband returns home.
51. Pray before your husband returns home that your adjustment to his return will be a smooth transition. Pray specifically for peace, unity and joy to reign within your home when he returns.
52. Speak to your children often about the respect and high regard you have for their daddy. Build him up in front of them. Be sure to continue this practice once he returns.
53. If you are able to, ask for your husband's opinion on major decisions that need to be made for your family and home while he is away. If he is not able to participate in a major decision, recall his response to similar circumstances, pray and ask for God's wisdom on the matter, then make your decision. Later, when you are able to, tell him how you made your decision based upon the facts you had and upon the ways he has done this in the past.
54. If you have any issues from your past that you think hinders your relationship with your husband, now would be a great time to work on them.
55. Ask him how you can support him with his work and his career.
56. Dream together about you want to do after he retires from the military. Remember, dream together, and don't place any conditions or limitations on those dreams. You are just dreaming and brainstorming together.
57. If your husband is stressed out whenever he calls you, allow him the opportunity to vent. Don't try to fix the situation he is in. Be a good listener. Remember to build him up and be an encourager. Be sincere whenever you do this. (See item #43)

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58. Take good care of his stuff while he is away. Don't allow your children to use or misuse anything of your husband's while he is away, unless you/they have his permission to do so.
59. Leave a pair of your husband's shoes out in a place in your bedroom, living room, or wherever you would like to see them.
60. Write a tribute to your husband and send it to him.
61. Tell his family members how proud you are of your husband and how much you love him.
62. I'm not going to kid you...the holidays are hard while your husband is away. Try to do something special for him that will show your love for him. Make him his favorite Christmas cookies; send him a very small-decorated Christmas tree, or something that will have great meaning to him.
63. Create a special endearing code word that only you and your husband know the meaning of. Place the code word tucked away in a letter, email, or care package.
64. Ask your husband to describe the importance of his work to you.
65. During the Christmas holidays, fill up a stocking with his favorite candy, music and other favorite items.
66. For Valentine's Day, make a heart shaped "stocking" and do the same as above.
67. Have some postal stamps made with a picture of you and your spouse. Go to www.usps.com to order these stamps and use them when you mail him letters.
68. Share with your husband things you like to do with each other.
69. Write a short story or song about your husband that indicates your love and pride for him.
70. Make up a few scrapbook pages with memories and love letters you have sent to each other. Send him a picture of the pages every once in a while to show him what you are doing to document this historic time in your lives in order to leave a legacy for your family.
71. Journal memories and important happenings of how the Lord provided for both of you while he was away. This will become part of the legacy you leave your family.
72. As you prepare to transition from deployed status to having him back home, be sure to allow each other grace during the transition. Expectations are high and feelings can be hurt. Lean on the Lord and ask Him for a smooth transition and strategy for reentry. Then place your expectations on Him.
73. Don't stop what you have started when your husband returns. Keep the romance going; don't become complacent or too busy to make time to focus on your relationship.
74. Enjoy one another in the different seasons of your lives!

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