



## Sketching our Marriage Story Birth to Wedding

**Unpleasant Experience**      **Pleasant Experience**      **Comments**  
 -5   -4   -3   -2   -1   +1   +2   +3   +4   +5

	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	
<b>Birth</b>											<i>italics (first comments) bold (gospel reflections)</i>
Little brother born										x	
Grandfather died *		x									<i>Didn't understand; lonely</i>
Grandmother moved in										x	<b>God used g-ma in amazing ways</b>
Moved to new house										x	<i>Back yard seemed huge</i>
Made new friends										x	<b>God provided great friends</b>
Broke my leg			x								<b>Got a lot of time with mom</b>
<b>Elementary Age</b>											
Lots of new friends										x	<i>Really good influence on me</i>
Mean 2nd grade teacher					x						<b>Learned to persevere</b>
Vacation to Grand Canyon										x	<b>God provided more time w/ mom</b>
Mom got cancer *			x								<i>Believed God would heal her</i>
Mom died		x									<i>Hated God for a long time</i>
Grades fell				x							<b>God didn't let this affect college</b>
<b>Middle School Age</b>											
Made basketball team										x	<i>Major confidence boost</i>
Dad remarried										x	<i>Overall good, but hard to accept</i>
First love										x	<b>I'm really affected by people</b>
First break up			x								<i>I feel silly, but it really hurt</i>
Accepted Jesus as Savior *										x	<b>Realized I needed Jesus most</b>
<b>High School Age</b>											
Being a freshman										x	<i>Everything was new and exciting</i>
Made varsity as sophomore *										x	<b>Began to rely on self &amp; people again</b>
Began to party					x						<i>Never as fun as I wanted it to be</i>
Deciding on a college					x						<b>God directed me through confusion</b>
Senior year										x	<i>Great year with so much fun</i>
Graduation – new car *										x	<i>Incredible, but missed mom</i>
<b>College Age</b>											
First year's grades					x						<i>Very distracted by new relationships</i>
Began dating my spouse *										x	<b>God provided when I wan't looking</b>
5 changes in school major					x						<b>God brought me through confusion</b>
Got engaged										x	<b>God answered many prayers</b>
Leaving school social life					x						<i>Hard to adjust to less social life</i>
<b>After</b>											
First real job										x	<b>Able to serve and bless others</b>
Adjusting to "real world" *					x						<b>God matured me greatly</b>
Planning of wedding					x						<i>stressful and family argued</i>
Almost broke off engagement					x						<b>God confirmed my choice to marry</b>
Wedding & honeymoon										x	

Modified and adapted from *Preparing for Marriage* edited by Dennis Rainey (pages 36-37)