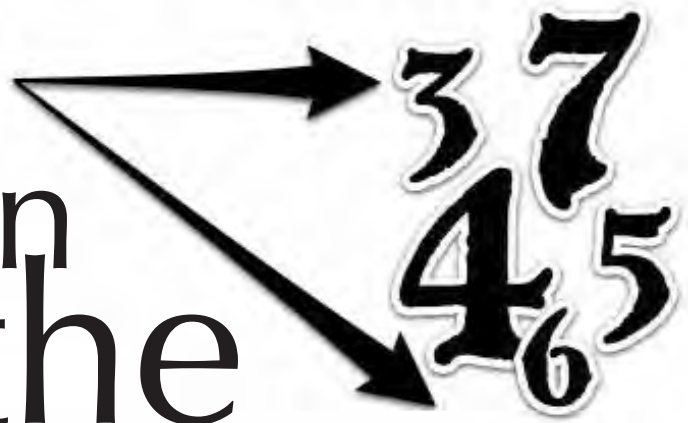


R O M A N C E

It's all in
the



SCHEDULED



by Jessica DeLand

Making time for romance as a college student can be tricky. Between going to school, doing homework, working, and in some cases, taking care of the kids, there's hardly time to sleep, let alone enjoy romance with your loved one. But there is hope. With the proper scheduling, you can bring that spark back into your relationship and still have time to do all the necessary chores of everyday life.

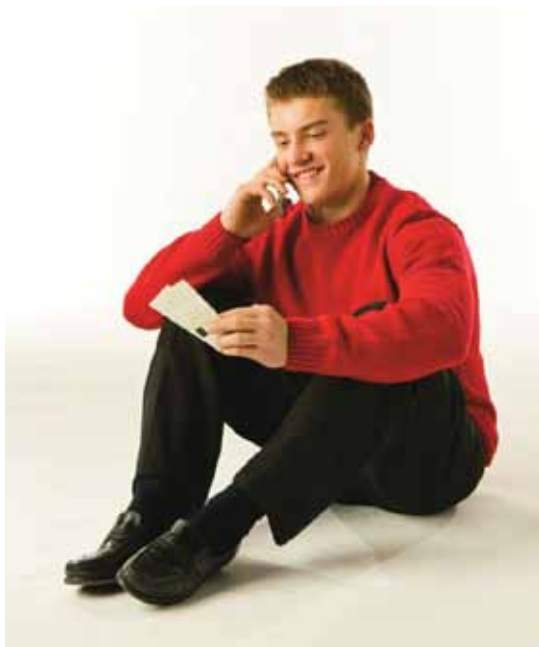
Plan a date night:

One of the most important things you can do for yourselves

before and after marriage is set aside a designated night just one day a week for date night. My husband and I chose Friday because it's the typical date night for most people, plus it's the last day of the school week, so it's a good way to relax after a grueling week of school. However, you can choose any day that works best for you. Just make it a rule that this time belongs just to the two of you, no matter what may happen during the rest of the week. This will help you make your loved one a priority and not just something you fit in when you find a spare minute.

Be spontaneous:

One of the most romantic things you can do for your loved one is be spontaneous. Surprise them with a gift or a love note, or take them somewhere the two of you can just be alone together. Before we were married, and even now, my husband used to randomly whisk me away to humble places like Walmart where we could talk, discuss things we might want to have in the future, or laugh at things we found there. If necessary, schedule in some time each week when you can enjoy spontaneous activities that either yourself or your loved one comes up with. Or sometimes it's as simple as giving your loved one a hug or a kiss when they're least expecting it. Random acts of love can make all the difference in how much romance your relationship has.



Spend quality time together:

The time you do spend together, whether this is during your date night or other times throughout the week, make sure it is true quality time. Watching movies or going to dinner is fun, but it may not be the best way to make use of your limited time together. My husband and I realized this a few months ago, and so we started learning new hobbies that we could do together, such as putting together three-dimensional puzzles, caring for tropical fish, and even crocheting. Finding hobbies or doing activities that you both enjoy will bring you closer together as you struggle, learn, and laugh together. Or sometimes good quality time is nothing more than setting aside time to talk about and listen to one another's fears, hopes, and achievements. It's just as important to keep learning about each other after marriage as it is before.

Do spiritual activities together:

The very best way to inspire romance in your relationship is to spend time in worship together. Reading scriptures together every day, even for just a few minutes, and sharing your feelings and insights with one another will bring you closer to each other as you draw closer to the Lord. Before we were married, my husband and I tried to do this each day we were able to see each other, and now, we read together every night before we go to bed. We also have Family Home Evening every Monday night with just a short, simple lesson we discuss with one another for a few minutes. Whenever possible, you should also spend time in the temple together, even if you have to schedule it as your date that week. There is no other place where you will feel more love for each other than when you are in the presence of the Lord.

These are just a few ways you can make time for romance in your busy life, but as my husband and I have learned, they will help you start making your loved one your priority over everything else. Just remember that if you truly love one another, you will always be willing to schedule time to be with the one you love.