

20 Dates for Less than \$20

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Ministers Mike and Wanda Collins

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- 1. Have a Joke Telling Showdown** -- Has the art of laughing been lost in your relationship? The Bible says that laughter is medicine for the soul. And we couldn't agree more. So, why not plan a night strictly for being silly. Make each person responsible for finding or creating funny jokes or stories to share with the other person. For extra fun you can each dress silly and ask your kids to be the joke judges.
- 2. Create a Homemade Spa** – Start by placing fresh linen on your bed and then sprinkling the sheets with rose petals. You could also lightly spray the sheets and pillowcases with a relaxing aroma such as jasmine. Now, either dim the lights in the bedroom, or light candles. Use your stereo or portable CD player to play soft background music. Then move to the bathroom and create the same type of atmosphere there. After the two of you enjoy a warm bubble bath together, move to the bedroom and give each other full body massages using baby oil or massage oil.
- 3. Cook a Meal Together** – Visit the Food Network website or your favorite recipe website and select a romantic recipe. Print the recipe and then go grocery shopping together to hunt for ingredients. Bring the ingredients home and then

have a good time cooking your selected dish together. Touching, kissing, and flirting are highly encouraged in the kitchen.

- 4. Be Kids Again** – Take a trip to the local park and enjoy the swings, seesaw, and sliding board. For added fun visit a water park.

- 5. Visit a Pet Store** – If both you and your spouse are animal lovers this is sure to be a lot of fun!

- 6. Go House Hunting** – What does your dream home look like? How many bedrooms does it have? Note sure? Well, why not go house hunting together? Have fun walking through new homes as you create a mental image of your future blessing.

- 7. Read Out Loud to Each Other**-- Borrow your favorite book from the library or purchase a book. Take turns reading out loud to each other. Even try different voices for different characters. Then talk about what you liked about the story or what you didn't like.

- 8. House Swap** – For a free weekend getaway, try house swapping with some friends.

- 9. Go People Watching** – Humans are some the most interesting specimens to observe. Go to the mall, airport, or Local Park and hang out for a few hours watching people come and go.
10. **Go to a \$1 Movie** – The cost to go to the movies these days is in our opinion, ridiculous! By the time you add in the cost of popcorn, a candy bar, and a soda, you could have paid for a ticket to see a Broadway show. Okay, maybe we're exaggerating a wee bit, but I think you get our point. We suggest you find a One Dollar Movie theater in your town and enjoy a movie there. The cost, including snacks from the concession counter is more than 50% less than the total cost of a regular theatre.
11. **Dessert and Coffee** – After dinner, take a trip to your favorite coffee shop. Once there, order your favorite drink and share a dessert. Now, relax there for a while. Enjoy your treats, the conversation, and the atmosphere.
12. **A Country Drive/ City Drive** – How sad it is that some of us never leave the perimeters of work, home, and church. There's a lot of interesting things to see right there in your own city. Why not take the scenic route to "no place" and enjoy seeing things you've not seen before. Be sure to pack a lunch from home to avoid wasting money on fast food purchases.

13. **A Romantic Walk** – Before turning in for the evening, take a romantic walk under the stars. Hold hands and talk about your hopes and dreams for the future.

14. **Game Night with Friends** – Invite a few couples over for games and fun. If you're short on games, ask each couple to bring their favorite game. Here are a few suggestions: Scrabble, Cards Games, Charades, and Pictionary.

15. **Miniature Golf** – You don't have to be a pro golfer to play miniature golf. This is a stress free, fun filled activity that many unmarried couples choose as a first date. Why? First of all it's inexpensive (that is, if you don't play too many games), it gives the two of you a chance to talk. And on top of that, a little healthy competition is always fun!

16. **A Picnic** – Pack two blankets and a few of your favorite picnic foods. Visit your Local Park right before the sun goes down. Use one blanket to sit on and the other blanket for snuggling and cuddling under cover. Enjoy the food, the sunset, and each other.

17. **Visit a Bookstore** – Have fun searching for a book the two of you would enjoy reading together. The challenge of course is to keep the cost of the book at \$20 or less.

- 18. Taste Testing** – Each person gets \$10 to go out and purchase items for tasting. The items that each person buys must be kept a secret from the other person. At home, you'll each take turns feeding each other the foods purchased you each purchased. The catch is that the person doing the tasting must wear a blindfold.
- 19. Jazz in the Park** – Every Summer our Parks and Recreation association offers free music concerts in the park. Typically, it's done on the weekend and there's never a shortage of people. Which why you should plan on arriving early. Bring two folding chairs, a couple of blankets, sandwiches, and drinks from home.
- 20. A Day at the Beach** – If you live near water why not spend a day at the beach with your sweetie. The two of you can collect seashells, go snorkeling, build a sand castle, or just walk along the shoreline. To keep this date under twenty dollars you will need to bring your own lunch, beach chairs, and umbrellas.

Have Fun Dating Your Spouse!