

## *Appendix B*

# UNDERSTANDING *THIS* MAN

Here are some questions to keep in mind as you seek to understand the man in your life. Some of them may even be appropriate conversation starters for the two of you:

### WHERE HE'S COME FROM

If he could repeat one era or one experience in his past, what would that be? Why?

If he could delete one era or experience, what would that be? Why?

When did he first feel (or ever feel):

- . . . like the odd duck out?
- . . . a sense of rejection or failure?
- . . . the triumph of accomplishment?
- . . . a longing for something to be different?
- . . . lonely or afraid?

What kind of affirmation did he feel from his dad? What does he wish his father had said to him—or he had said to his father?

When he was growing up, when was he most aware of God? How did God get his attention . . . his heart? Or in what way might he wish he'd discovered God earlier?

When did he first know that his parents weren't perfect? What kind of impact did that have on him?

What did he always secretly wish he'd had the opportunity to do . . . but he never got the chance?

What experiences most made him want to hide?

What advice would he give a younger version of himself?

## HOW HE SEES HIS OWN LIFE

When does he feel or has he felt the most free to be himself?  
And why?

What are the words he most longs to hear? What are the words he most fears hearing? What words have been said to him that have been life-giving?

What communicates respect to him? What are the times in his life when he felt particularly respected or disrespected?

How does his choice of work he loves—or the work he believes he would love—give you clues to his temperament and his abilities? (For example, a podiatrist tends to be drawn to the tangible and concrete results.)

Where does his greatest passion and motivation lie: in shaping ideas, in changing/leading/helping people, or in building/creating some *thing*? How has that motivation been seen in his past? What expression does he want that to take in his future?

From his standpoint, what purpose does a particular hobby or sport serve in his life?

## HOW HE SEES YOUR RELATIONSHIP

When does he feel closest to you? And what makes him feel most estranged?

What seems better in his life to him when he's happy about his sexual life with you?

What kind of emotional triggers is he unable to tolerate (for example, he exits the room, diverts the conversation, cracks a joke, gets angry)?

What has been hardest thing for him to forgive?

What does he secretly wish the two of you did together?

When does he feel respected? What causes him to feel disrespect?

### HIS DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

If he died now, would he feel that God was pleased with his life?

Is there some kind of new endeavor he senses God has for him in the future?

What is his toleration for risk, financially and in relationships, and how does it differ from yours?

He could “die happy” if he did what?

And he'd feel the most sense of loss if he never got the chance to do what?

What does it look like for the two of you to dream together?