

1st Grade Marriage

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE: To recognize that marriage is about helping each other.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- In marriage, husband and wife work together to help each other in life and toward heaven.
- Husband and wife complement each other.
- Marriage is built upon love.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS: Choose the components you wish to use given the time you have and the needs of your children.

INTRODUCTION

2 min

Summarize today's theme:

Through these units we hope to become familiar with the vocations to which God calls people so that you will be able to follow his call always. Right now, you are in the single state of life, but someday God may call you to a particular vocation—married life, priesthood, or religious life. Today's focus is on marriage.

SIMPLE PRAYER

2 min

Let's draw near to God during today's lesson.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." - EPHESIANS 5:25

POSSIBLE PRAYER:

Thank you, Lord, for marriage. Please help husbands and wives to love and help each other well. Let our own families be full of your own love so that we can be good and generous to each other. Amen.

MARRIAGE

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READING

MOUSE HELP



VOCATION LESSONS | 1st Grade: Marriage



MAIN CONCEPTS

3 min

Explain the main concepts of marriage to the students:

- Marriage is the shared life of a man and a woman after they have a wedding.
- At the wedding, husband and wife make special promises to each other to love and help each other for life.
- In marriage, husband and wife work together to help each other in life and toward heaven.
- Husband and wife complement each other. The word complement is different from a compliment—saying nice things about each other. In marriage complement means that the two people are different, but they go well together to become something better than if they were alone. Just as Jesus loves us, so, too, a husband and wife should act in love in their marriage.



READING

15 min

- Read “Mouse Help” aloud to the class.
- Discuss the reflection questions below and any others of your own.

BE CURIOUS

- What would have happened if the mice tried to make it to the other side without each other?
- What were some of the unique things that each mouse could do that the other could not?
- What does this story tell us about marriage?
- The mice set a goal to make it to the other side of the field. If you were leading a family, what kind of goals would you set?

MOUSE HELP

Two little mice huddled together, trying to protect each other from the cold.

Refer to image of two mice.

“I’m so hungry!” said Mrs. Mouse.

“Here, darling, eat this,” said Mr. Mouse as he took the last little bit of sunflower seed from his pocket.

“Thank you, but you haven’t eaten all day, my husband!”

Mr. Mouse smiled and prodded her to take the food.

“Gather up your strength, wife. Don’t you think we should make the long journey to the other side of the field since there is not much more food or shelter here?”

“Yes, but it is such a dangerous path! Do you think we’ll make it all the way to the bank of the river?”

“If we work together, my dear, we probably can.

Hoping for the best, Mr. and Mrs. Mouse set off on their journey hand in hand, knowing that there were dan-

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gers ahead of them. The first difficult thing they encountered was a huge patch of mud.

“Watch out!” cried Mrs. Mouse. “If you put your foot in there you will get stuck!”

“Here,” said Mr. Mouse, “Help me push this branch over so we can walk on the branch instead of getting stuck in the mud. I can’t move it all by myself.”

Together the mice pushed the branch and safely walked over the mud without even getting dirty.

By and by they came to a stone wall. It was high and wide. They could see a cherry tree on the other side but to climb the wall with all of their belongings would take too long and if they left their bags, a squirrel might come and take it.

“Look darling, there is a little hole in the wall. Do you think you can fit through?” asked Mr. Mouse.

Mrs. Mouse squeezed through while Mr. Mouse stayed with their belongings and kept them safe from the squirrel. After a bit, Mrs. Mouse squeezed back through the hole again carrying a cherry for each of them.

Refer to image of owl swooping.

No sooner had they eaten their cherries than a large owl swooped down from the sky with his talons outstretched to grab Mrs. Mouse. “Yikes!” she yelled as she quickly ducked down. The hungry owl missed her, but he circled around in the air ready to come back. “We have to work together to get inside that log or we will never get out of this alive!” she cried.

Now, Mr. Mouse had a good throwing arm, and as the owl came back toward the mouse’s dear wife, Mr. Mouse took a pebble and threw it at the owl. The stone was too little to hurt the owl at all, but it did surprise and distract the bird long enough for Mrs. Mouse to scamper into the safety of the hollow log. Now the owl turned his sharp talons toward Mr. Mouse, ready to pounce. Mrs. Mouse could not throw a pebble far enough to reach the owl, but she did have a very high, loud voice. She squeaked so loudly that the owl looked over, giving Mr. Mouse just enough time to reach the other side of the hollowed log.

Refer to image of safe mice.

“That was a close one!” the two mice said, hugging one another. “We are so blessed to have each other! I think we would have been that owl’s lunch if we had not worked together,” said Mr. Mouse.

As the mice gave thanks to God for their marriage, they noticed a small tunnel in the ground. They followed it, and it led to the bank of the river, out of harm’s way. The mice explored their new surroundings and saw that this field was full of food and little places where mice could live. Grateful for arriving, Mr. and Mrs. Mouse began to build their new home together.

The End



MARRIAGE

PRAYER

LITANY FOR THE FAMILY

Lord, we love and thank you for giving us families. Together we want to build your kingdom. We pray for the people you have placed in our lives:

Teacher: *For our fathers, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our mothers, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our brothers, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our sisters, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our grandparents, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our aunts, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our uncles, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our cousins, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Teacher: *For our family friends, we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

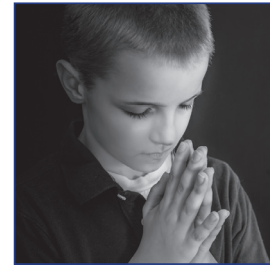
(Students can add their own intentions)

Teacher: *For... we pray to the Lord...*
All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

AMEN.

PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer



I glorify You, God,
in all that I do.
Mind, body and spirit,
my best is for You.

AMEN.

ACTIVITY

10 min

FIND THE COMPLEMENT

Introduce the activity:

In marriage, the wife has gifts and talents to help the marriage that only a lady has, and the husband has gifts and talents that only a man has. Together, they can make a great friendship that helps each other in life and brings love to the family.

1. Have a few things on a desk or table which have a complement, i.e., pencil and paper, bat and ball, fork and knife, tooth brush and tooth paste, comb and a brush, violin and bow, etc.
2. Hand a student an object, and ask him or her to find the complement.
3. Repeat until students match all the objects.

Conclude:

These are all objects that work well together. They complement each other. A toothbrush is not the same as toothpaste, but the two work together well toward the same goal—clean teeth! In the same way, a husband and a wife are not the same. They complement each other and work well together.

REINFORCING THE CONCEPTS

5 min

Quiz the students a bit to see if they grasp and remember the main concepts. Answer any questions the students have. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary for here: <http://www.vocationlessons.com/glossary>

DRAWING

15 min

MOM AND DAD WORKING TOGETHER

Introduce the Activity:

In marriage the husband and wife work together to build a good family. Draw a picture of a mom and dad working together. Here are some ideas:

- Mom and dad giving a baby a bath.
- Mom and dad cooking together
- Mom and dad working in the yard
- Mom and dad building a tree house for their kids
- Or any way that mom and dads work together

Conclude the activity by asking some students to share about what they drew. *How are mom and dad working together?*



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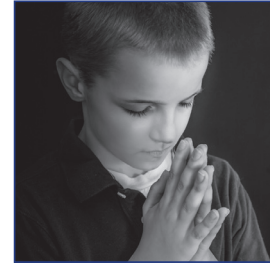
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All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

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Vocation Prayer



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REFLECTIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the Litany for the Family.

Let us pray that love fill our families so that together we can help each other in life and toward God. After I say, "We pray to the Lord," we all respond, "Lord, hear our prayer."

2. Lead the children in prayer.

PRAY TOGETHER

1 min

Direct the students to read and pray the Vocation Prayer together.