



# MARRIAGE

*“Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you.” - 1 PETER 5:7*

## ACTIVITY

### MAKE A “JOY BOOK”

Cut out the 5 large smiley faces on the following page. On the back of each smiley face, write one way you can bring joy to your family. Then staple them together like a book.

## READING

### FAMILIES: BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE WORLD

Once upon a time there were three little pigs who set off to make their way in the world. The first little pig built his house out of straw. The second little pig built his house out of sticks. The third little pig built his house out of solid bricks. He lifted them carefully and fit them together to make a very strong house. Along came a hungry wolf who liked the taste of little pigs. He knocked on the door of the straw house.

“Little pig, little pig, let me in,” said the wolf very sweetly.

“Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!” replied the pig.

“Then I’ll huff, and I’ll puff, and I’ll blow your house down!”

So he huffed, and he puffed, and he blew the straw house down!

Next, the wolf went to the house made out of sticks.

“Little pig, little pig, let me in,” he called.

The little pig answered, “Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!”

“Then I’ll huff, and I’ll puff, and I’ll blow your house down!”

So he huffed, and he puffed, and he blew the stick house down.



Finally the wolf come to the house made out of brick.

“Little pig, little pig, let me in,” said the wolf.

“Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!” said the pig.

“Then I’ll huff, and I’ll puff, and I’ll blow your house down!”

So he huffed, and he puffed, and he puffed, and he huffed, but no matter how hard he tried, the wolf could not blow the brick house down.

The End





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## READING

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There may be other versions of the story that you know, but in all of them, what happened when that mean old wolf huffed and puffed to blow the first two houses down? It worked, didn't it? The houses collapsed. What were they made out of? Sticks and straw. What happened when the hungry wolf tried to blow down the brick house? He could not blow it down. It was too strong.

A community whose families are strong and good is like the little pig's house that is made out of bricks. Families are strong when they care for each other's needs. If you think of our whole world as a building, families are like the bricks. The fancy way of saying this is that the family is the basic unit of society. Try saying that phrase. It means that families are the most important part of the world. The building block of the world is not the government, nor one person, nor a business like Walmart—it is the family.

When God calls a person to the vocation of marriage, it is so that person will be happy, will care for their spouse and children, and will help hold up the whole community like the brick in the little pig's house! That is an important calling!

Our world needs happy, holy, and healthy families! The happier, holier, and healthier that families are in a town or country, the better that place will be. Think about the hundreds of needs that a family meets. Some of the things people need are so simple that they are almost boring or funny, while others are deeply important to people's feelings. Let's name some of these needs: Little kids' toe nails need cut, floors need swept, injuries need bandaged, and diapers need changed. All people need to feel loved, to be included in a group, to feel comfortable, to learn about God, and to be understood. Can you think of any other needs we all have?

When your family loves well, you will be strong together. Here's a funny way you can see that a family supporting each other is stronger than a person is on his own. Try



gently bending back your little pinky on your left hand by pushing it with your right hand. Pretend your little pinky doesn't want to go back. Can it resist? Any of your fingers will bend back if you push it with your other hand. That's what it is like when individual people are not built up by a family. If, however, you put all of your left hand fingers together, including your thumb, they are so strong that your right hand cannot push them backwards. That's the power of family. That's why a family is like a strong brick. It is the basic unit of society.

Meeting the needs of a family is difficult, but God knows this. He made marriage a sacrament. A sacrament is a sign of God's love that gives special help called "grace." This grace helps a mom and dad lovingly meet the needs of their family.

### BE CURIOUS

- How many minutes or hours a day do you think it takes a mom or dad to meet the needs of a family?
- Why is family the basic unit of society?
- What are some of the needs of the people in your family?
- What is something you do to help make your family loving?



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## EXPLORATION



Write and decorate a “Thank You” note to someone in your family who has helped you in some way.

## VISUAL ART



Look at this painting of a family spending time together.

Answer the following questions according to your teacher’s directions.

- Who is this family?
- What items do you see in the background that Mary and Joseph use to help their family?
- Is this family happy to be together? How do you know?
- How does the Child Jesus feel about Joseph?
- What can you tell about how Mary and Joseph feel about Jesus from the painting?
- Which person is in the center of the painting? Who should be the center of our families?

PRAY TOGETHER

### *Vocation Prayer*

I say yes like Mary,  
And give you my heart.  
To follow you Jesus,  
I will do my part.  
Help me follow your will  
No matter the call.  
Whatever vocation,  
I promise my all.  
  
AMEN.