

# 5th Grade: Marriage

## OVERVIEW

### OBJECTIVE:

- To internalize the reason God created me, and to apply that purpose to my current family and single state of life.
- To be able to locate the basic teachings on marriage in the Catechism.

### MAIN CONCEPTS:

- Each person is made to know, love, and serve God.
- The purpose in life can be lived out in a family and as a single person.
- Marriage is a freely chosen union of love between a man and woman for life instituted by God.
- Through the sacrament of marriage, the bride and groom receive the Holy Spirit and together become a sign of Christ's presence.
- Love of husband and wife reflects the love of God for his bride, the Church.

### PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

- Complete the core components of the lesson. Select and complete other 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 we will focus on marriage.*

# MARRIAGE

*"We speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory...But as it is written: 'What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.' This God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God."*  
- 1 CORINTHIANS 2:7, 9, 10

## OPENING ACTIVITY

### CHAIN STORY ABOUT MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Work together with a group to write a story about a man and woman who meet, get married, raise a family, and then have grandchildren.



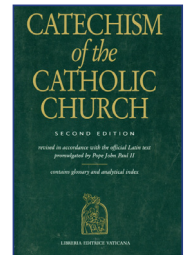
- The first person in the group begins the story and writes for one minute.
- After a minute is up, the first student stops writing and folds the paper so that only the last line of writing shows. He then passes it to the next student who writes for one minute.
- This continues until all students in the group have had a turn.
- The last student in each group finishes the story.
- Unfold the stories, and read them out loud.

## READING

Read through the passages "Why God Made Me?" and "Marriage," and answer the reflection questions according to your teacher's directions.

### WHY GOD MADE ME

There is a terrific reference book for learning about the Catholic faith. It is called the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Its words can be difficult to understand, but the truths it contains are very simple and deep. We'll look at a few passages today to help understand the purpose of life and marriage.



Have you ever stopped to wonder why God made you? This is a very normal thing to wonder. This is one of the most important questions to ask, and its answer is the key to the meaning of life. Understanding why God made you can influence why you do what you do and how you chose to live your life. It can mean the difference between true happiness in life or fake happiness that does not last. A person who understands the answer to this question is like someone who holds in his hands pure gold instead of a big, cheap, plastic gold ring.

So, what is the answer? Why did God make you? Here's what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

"For if man exists, it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator."<sup>[1]</sup>

[1] Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph 27.

## OPENING PRAYER

2 min

Slowly read aloud 1 Corinthians 2:7, 9, 10, pausing a few seconds between phrases for silent reflection.

*"We speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory...But as it is written: 'What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.' This God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God."*  
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Pray this or another simple prayer from the heart:!

*Thank you, Lord, for the incredible plan you have for your people. Please give us a glimpse of your purpose and plan for us in our families and as individuals so that we may live with more courage, conviction, and faith. Amen.*

## OPENING ACTIVITY

5-10 min

### CHAIN STORY

Students work together to write a story about a man and woman who meet, get married, raise a family, and then have grandchildren.

1. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4. Give one piece of paper for each group. The first person begins the story and writes for one minute.
2. After a minute is up, the first student stops writing and folds the paper so that only the last line of writing shows. He then passes it to the next student who writes for one minute.
3. This continues until all students in each group have had a turn. (Continue for several turns if time allows.)
4. The last student in each group finishes the story.
5. Unfold the stories, and read them out loud.

*Note: Encourage students to be respectful as they write.*

### READING

15 min

Use the reading to teach the main concepts about marriage and our purpose in life.

1. Have students read the reflections and passages from the Catechism individually, in small groups, or together as a class.
2. Use the reflection questions to spark discussion, or assign the students to write answers to them.

# MARRIAGE

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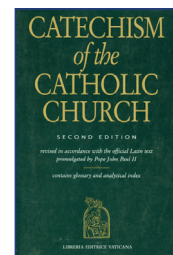
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## EXPLORATION

10 min

1. Have students work with partners to memorize one of the passages from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
2. Direct students to identify three ways that is passage can be lived out in a family.



## MARRIAGE

### READING *continued*

In other words, God made you because he loves you. It is his love for you that urged him to create you. Wow!

Furthermore, “Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.”<sup>2</sup> Only in God can you, I, and every person be truly and completely happy! How do we respond to God’s love? We receive his love and love him in return, for man is “created in God’s image and called to know and love him.”<sup>[2]</sup>

Your family has a special role to help you know God, receive his love, love him, serve him, and find your happiness in him. The Bible says that to love God whom we cannot see means that we love the people we can see. So, loving your family members is a way to know, love, and serve God.

### MARRIAGE

*Read these passages from the Catechism on marriage. The words may be challenging, but try to understand the main idea of each passage.*

**1601** The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life...this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

**1603** God himself is the author of marriage. The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures.



**1604** Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator’s eyes.

**1661** The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church.

*Below are some of the concepts about marriage taken from the Catechism that have been reworded. Match these statements with the correct catechism passage above. Write the Catechism paragraph number to the right of each statement.*

- A true marriage must be chosen by each person freely—not pressured or forced.
- A couple’s marriage continues until one of the spouses dies.
- The husband and wife become a sign of Christ’s presence.
- Love of husband and wife reflect the love of God.
- God is the one who made marriage.
- Marriage is a sacrament.

### YOUR OWN SPIN

- Which passage from the Catechism of the Catholic Church stands out to you most?
- How can knowing the reason God made you affect how you live in your family?

## EXPLORATION

### MARRIAGE IN THE CATECHISM

1. Practice with a partner memorizing one of the passages about marriage from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
2. Identify three ways that this passage can be lived out in a family.

[2] *Ibid.*

## VISUAL ART

5 min

1. Display “Marriage is Holy,” a photo from a Catholic wedding Mass.
2. Direct students to analyze the image in light of today’s theme.
3. Use the reflection questions to spark discussion, or assign students to write answers to them.

## REINFORCE

5 min

1. Display the main concepts on the board.
2. Have the students verbally repeat them, write them down, or ask questions about them.
3. Quiz the students a bit to see if they grasp the concepts. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary found at [www.vocation-lessons.com/glossary](http://www.vocation-lessons.com/glossary).

## MEDITATIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the meditation.  
*This is a quiet time to reflect on the mysterious things that God has planned for us. You can get a little bit comfortable. Feel free to close your eyes.*
2. Slowly read aloud 1 Corinthians 2:7,9,10. Pause in between phrases for silent contemplation.  
*“We speak God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory...But as it is written: ‘What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.’ This God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.”*  
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3. Help the students to reflect on this quote and their own lives. The depths of God... imagine how vast the universe is. In your mind’s eye, travel past our planet, past the sun, through the Milky Way, past stars, and even beyond other galaxies. As far as you can



## MARRIAGE

### VISUAL ART



### MARRIAGE IS HOLY

Study the image in light of today’s theme.

1. What are your first thoughts when you see this photo?
2. What does the cross in the middle symbolize?
3. Does this couple seem to be starting marriage right? How so?

### PRAY TOGETHER

#### *Actiones Nostra*

Father, may everything we do  
begin with your inspiration  
and continue  
with your saving help.  
Let our work always find  
its origin in you  
and through you reach  
completion.

We ask this  
through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

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travel, as vast as you can imagine, God has even vaster, greater plans for his people than that. Yet, what cannot be imagined, has been whispered to you already. Through the colorful religion books you’ve seen as a child, or the songs you’ve heard at Christmas Mass, to the black and white print of your Bible, you have gotten hints of this incredible plan as the Holy Spirit has revealed. What do you want to know? Ask Our Lord. Listen to the Holy Spirit. What is his plan for you? How does he encourage you now?

## CLOSING PRAYER

2 min

1. Direct the students to look over the prayer.  
*Learning to direct all of your actions toward God will be a great path toward friendship with God. Are there any phrases in this prayer that are confusing?*
2. Lead the students pray the vocation prayer, *Actiones Nostra*.