



MARRIAGE

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”- John 15:13

ACTIVITY

VIRTUE ACTING

Act out this dialogue several times, with different students pretending to have different moods.

Student A. Good morning.

Student B. Good morning.

Student A. Could you please pass the cereal?

Student B. Sure.

Student A. Thank you.

1. Student A is patient; Student B is generous
2. Student A is understanding; Student B is irritable
3. Student A is irritable; Student B is irritable
4. Student A is irritable; Student B is lazy
5. Student A is kind; Student B is self-centered
6. Student A is cheerful; Student B is peaceful

How does this activity show what family life should be like?





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ESTABLISHING THE CONCEPTS

SACRED SACRIFICE IN MARRIAGE

Most people are called to marriage—to wholeheartedly love their spouse and to joyfully welcome children. The purpose of marriage is for a man and woman to help each other get to heaven and to teach their children to do the same. Like any vocation, marriage must be discerned, not assumed.

Marriage can be an incredibly beautiful vocation. After all, scripture teaches that marriage is a symbol of how Christ loves the Church!

A very common mistake, though, is for young people to think that marriage does not entail sacrifice. Sometimes it seems like vocations such as priesthood or religious life are far more difficult because they require celibacy. But just ask any married couple; they will tell you that marriage involves great sacrifice and that it can be very challenging at times.

The world needs good, holy marriages! If you feel called to marriage, strive for virtue, pray for your future spouse, and, above all, be patient! Wait to find someone who loves Jesus Christ and the Church, and who will truly love and honor you. God will answer your prayers in His time.

Be Curious

1. According to this reading, what needs to be present in a good marriage?
2. How do you think a person can learn to be patient waiting for the right person to marry?
3. What is the ultimate purpose of marriage?
4. What is the one thing that marriage involves that may surprise young people?
5. Define “assume.” Define “discern.” Why do you think it is important for the vocation to marriage to be discerned rather than assumed?
6. Compare how the relationship between a husband and wife is like the relationship between Christ and the Church (hint: think about how a husband should treat his wife, etc.)





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EXPLORATION

SCRIPTURE MATCHING

Marriage and family offers many opportunities for becoming more like Christ.

1. Imagine that you have been reading the Bible at night, then writing down some scriptures that you want to try to apply to your own life. Read through the scripture passages.
2. Match the acts of charity (right column) to the scripture passages by writing the number next to the scripture passage.



SCRIPTURE & FAMILY LIFE

_____ “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” John 12:24

_____ “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.’” Matthew 16:24

_____ “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?” Matthew 16:25-26

_____ “In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:3-4

1. Going to work when all the rest of your family is going to the pool.
2. Getting a napkin for someone during dinner even though you really want to take a bite of food.
3. Enduring with faith even when your best isn't enough to meet your family's needs.
4. Reading a story to someone when you really want to read your own book.
5. Making a meal and doing the dishes for the thousandth time that year.
6. Receiving criticism without retaliation.
7. Giving the last cookie to another person.
8. Listening to a long story about a rough day.
9. Caring for a sick child in the middle of the night.
10. Wearing clothes that honor your family but are not your favorite style.
11. Giving a shoulder massage when your own back and hands are aching.
12. Being kind and cheerful even when you are misunderstood.
13. Folding laundry for someone else.
14. Kindly working at understanding another person while also helping the other person to understand you.
15. Waiting patiently for someone who is late.

List three more charitable activities that you believe a husband, wife, or child could do.



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REFLECTIVE PRAYER

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me a channel of thy peace,
that where there is hatred, I may bring love;
that where there is wrong,
I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
that where there is error, I may bring truth;
that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
that where there is despair, I may bring hope;
that where there are shadows, I may bring light;
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather to
comfort than to be comforted;
to understand, than to be understood;
to love, than to be loved.

For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life.

REFLECTION:

- Do you need God's grace in particular areas, in order to help your family?
- Is there discord or sadness in your family? How can you help bring harmony or joy, even in small ways?
- Are there people you need to forgive in your heart?
- How can you open yourself to Jesus, so that when you give to others it is not just your own effort, but God's love spilling over from your heart?

VOCAL PRAYER

THE ANGELUS

Leader: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
All: and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary...

Leader: Behold the handmaid of the Lord
All: be it done unto me according to Thy word.
Hail Mary . . .

Leader: And the Word was made Flesh
All: and dwelt among us.
Hail Mary . . .

Leader: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
All: that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:
All: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord,
Thy grace into our hearts;
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son,
was made known by the message of an angel,
may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His
Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.
Amen.





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