

LESSON PLANⁱ

FORMING DISCIPLES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATIONⁱⁱ

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

Topic: The Sacrament of Matrimony

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is part of God's providence and purpose and a sign of God's love for the world exemplified between the love of a man and woman.

Grade Level: 8th

Standardⁱⁱⁱ 6 Morality: Understand and live the moral teachings of the Church through a life of discipleship in Jesus Christ expressed in love for God, conversion, positive self-image, personal integrity, social justice, the dignity of the human person and love of neighbor.

Indicator:

8.06.04 State marriage's twofold purpose.

Methodology: Art and Environment

Environment: Set up the classroom with tables and chairs, a white board in the front of the classroom, a computer with a projector to videos, and YOUCAT and the Bible on each chair for each student. Set up the chairs with the seats facing forward. If there is enough desk space, adjust the seating so it faces a U shape that has the students able to see the Crucifix and the projector in front of the classroom. On the front desk of the classroom, place the tablecloth with the Crucifix facing the rest of the classroom.

TEACHING THE LESSON

WELCOME: Greet the participants as they come in to the classroom/prayer space.

PRAYER: Matthew 19:4

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Then, read the following prayer of St. Joseph.

Class for our lesson today, we will pray a devotion to St. Joseph, patron for fathers and head of the Holy Family to intercede for us in our lesson today about marriage. (prayer from EWTN: [Link](#))

Saint Joseph, I, your unworthy child, greet you. You are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have special confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I place all my hope of salvation in you, for you are especially powerful with God and will never abandon your faithful servants.

Therefore I humbly invoke you and commend myself, with all who are dear to me and all that belong to me, to your intercession. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death. Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore that you encourage and inspire us to know about the Sacrament of Marriage in our lesson today. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

PREVIEW:

Show the students a picture of Adam and Eve.

Have the students read and reflect on Genesis 2:18, 21-23):

“The Lord God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, the man said,

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called ‘woman,’ for out of man this one has been taken.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

Then, present the students a picture of St. Joseph and Our Blessed Virgin Mary.
<http://church2011.saintraphaelschool.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Wedding-Mary-and-Joseph.jpg>

Ask the students:

- What does the Scripture passage say about marriage?

PRESENTATION:

Have the students watch this video by Father Robert Barron “Sex, Love and God”
[Link](#)

Draw a diagram on the board that shows the word sexuality encircled by a drawn man and woman stick figures, enclosed by a circle written with love and enclosed by a circle with the divine love. As you draw, reinforce and discuss what Father Robert Barron said in the video about Society’s views on the sexual act and marriage and the Catholic view and act of marriage.

Go over with the class the YOUCAT paragraph 400:

“400 *What does it mean to say that man is a sexual being? God created man as male and female. He created them for each other and for love. He created them with erotic desires and the ability to experience physical pleasure. He created them to transmit life.* [2331-2333, 2335, 2392] Being a man or being a woman is very deeply imprinted on the individual human person; it is a different way of feeling, a different way of loving, a different calling with respect to children, another way of believing. Because He intended that they should be there for each other and complement one another in love, God made man and woman different. That is why man and woman attract each other sexually and intellectually. When a husband and wife express their love for each other in bodily union, their love finds its deepest sensual expression. Just as God is creative in his love, so too man can be creative in love and give life to children.”

Draw a web diagram highlighting the essential elements of Christian marriage (Unity, Indissolubility, Openness, and Commitment) described in the YOUCAT paragraph 416:
“*What are the essential elements of Christian marriage? (1) Unity: Marriage is a*

covenant that by its very nature brings about bodily, intellectual, and spiritual union between a man and a woman; (2) Indissolubility: Marriage lasts “until death do us part”; (3) Openness to offspring: Every marriage must be open to children; (4) Commitment to the spouse’s welfare. [2360-2361, 2397-2398] If one of the two spouses deliberately excludes one of the four points listed above at the time of their wedding, the SACRAMENT of Matrimony does not take place.”

Divide the class into four groups with each one representing one of the essential elements and have them present and write down what each element means to a marriage. Have them also point out examples in real life relationships.

OR

Have the students watch the Busted Halo video “Sacraments 101: Matrimony (why make it catholic?)” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uq2RDYIOLrs>

Activity: Ask the student groups to create an informational graphic, drawing a poster about Catholic marriage outlining its elements and explaining the meaning of a conjugal relationship of a man and woman through the sacrament of marriage. After the students are done, have them present to the class their poster.

EVALUATION AND RESPONSE:

- Ask the students, “What significance does the sexual encounter have within marriage?”

Discuss this and reinforce the discussion with this passage from YOUCAT paragraph 417: *What significance does the sexual encounter have within marriage?* **According to God’s will, husband and wife should encounter each other in bodily union so as to be united ever more deeply with one another in love and to allow children to proceed from their love. [2362-2367]**

In Christianity, the body, pleasure, and erotic joy enjoy a high status: “Christianity. . . believes that matter is good, that God Himself once took on a human body, that some kind of body is going to be given to us even in Heaven and is going to be an essential part of our happiness, our beauty and our energy. Christianity has glorified marriage more than any other → RELIGION: and nearly all the greatest love poetry in the world has been produced by Christians. If anyone says that sex, in itself, is bad, Christianity contradicts him at once” (C. S. Lewis). Pleasure, of course, is not an end in itself. When the pleasure of a couple becomes self-enclosed and is not open to the new

life that could result from it, it no longer corresponds to the nature of love.

ASSIGNMENT:

Have the students find a married couple in their lives that exemplifies the qualities of a Catholic marriage. This can be their parents, older siblings, teachers, mentors, coaches etc. This can also be historical figures or saints who were married such as St. Joachim and St. Anne. In the next class, choose some students to present which couple they found as an example of marriage and why.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Have a student lead in prayer. Pray a Hail Mary to ask for her intercession in understanding of the sacrament of marriage

ⁱ The language used in this Lesson Planning Outline is geared to work with children and teenagers. When using it with adults, you may want to substitute the word “session” for “lesson,” and the word “participant” for “student.”

ⁱⁱ The AMS Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide, Grades Pre-K. to 8.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is structured around 14 Standards derived from the 4 pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 6 Key Elements of Catholic Life outlined in the National Directory for Catechesis, no 20. The 14 Standards are: 1) Creed, 2) Sacred Scripture, 3) Sacraments, 4) Liturgy, 5) Conscience, 6) Christian Living, 7) Prayer, 8) Catholic Church, 9) Ecumenism, 10) Catholic Principles and Relationships, 11) Vocation, 12) Catholic Social Teaching, 13) Inter-Religious Dialogue, and 14) Missionary Vocation. Please see the chart on pages 3-4 of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide.