

2nd Grade: Marriage

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

To identify ways that our families meet our needs.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- Marriage is an important vocation because it meets many needs of the people in a family.
- Marriage is an indissoluble sacrament that gives grace.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

Complete the core components of this lesson. Select and do other components given the time you have and the needs of your students.

INTRODUCTION

2 min

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

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 and Family.

SIMPLE PRAYER

2 min

Let's draw near to God during today's lesson. Read 1 Peter 5:7.

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

POSSIBLE PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, you care for us all as a perfect Father. We want to trust you today and be able to see your grace in our lives. AMEN.

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 came 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

VOCATION LESSONS | 2nd Grade: Marriage



MAIN CONCEPTS

5 min

Teach the main concepts about marriage and the family:

Marriage is an important vocation because it meets many needs of the people in a family. Families care for each other in hundreds of ways. This is why marriage is such an important vocation. God gives a man and a woman a lot of grace for this sacrament of marriage.



ACTIVITY

10 min

Introduce the activity:

Today we will be thinking of the needs that a family meets. One of the needs that everyone has is to laugh and be joyful. Let's think of some ways you can bring your family joy.

Lead the students through the activity:

Refer to graphics of smiley faces.

1. Have every student cut out and color 5 smiley faces.
2. Then, as a class, discuss ways the students can bring their family joy.
3. On the back of each smiley face, the students write one way they can bring their family joy.
4. Students staple the smiley faces together like a book.
5. Students take their "Joy Books" home to encourage and remind them to give joy to their family members.

READING

15 min

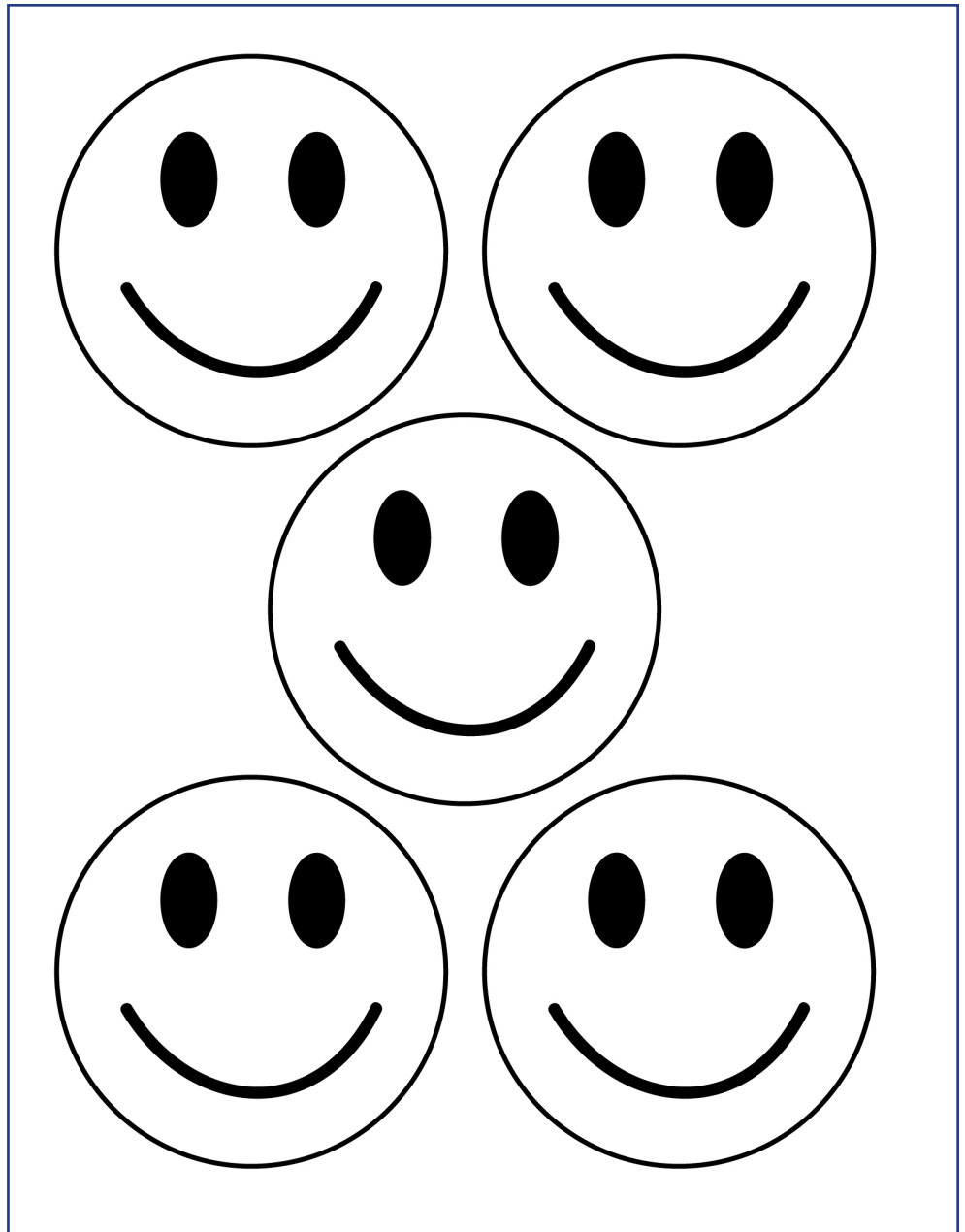
1. Direct students to read "Families: Building Blocks of the World" individually, in small groups, or together as a class.
2. Use the questions to spark class discussion, or assign students to write answers to the questions.

FAMILIES: BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE WORLD

Refer to image of the three little pigs.

You probably know the story of the "Three Little Pigs."

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

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.

Refer to image of the happy family.

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,



MARRIAGE

READING

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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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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 statements. Answer any questions. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary found at www.vocationlessons.com/glossary.

EXPLORATION

10 min

1. Have the students write a "Thank You" card to someone in their family who has done something to help him or her.
2. Students may decorate the note.
3. Put notes in envelopes, and send them home with students to give to their family members.



MARRIAGE

READING

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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?

VISUAL ART

5 min

1. Display "The Holy Family with the Little Bird" by Bartolome Esteban Murillo.
2. Have students study the image in light of today's theme.
3. Direct students to answer the discussion questions through writing or class discussion.
 - 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?

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

5 min

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILIES

1. Introduce the meditation.

I will say a topic of family life and then we will be quiet so each person can think of things to pray for. I might say, for example, "Let us pray for homeless families," and in your mind you might think about food, warmth, happiness and a job and pray for these things. Close your eyes as you think and pray. Let's begin.

2. List family topics to pray about.

Pause for 10 seconds or so in between each topic for students to think of prayers.

We pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters and cousins...

We pray for our parents and the things they need...

We pray for our grandparents, aunts, uncles and the oldest people in our families...

We pray about the things that bother people in our family...

We pray for the deep needs in our own hearts...

We thank you for the good things about our families...

We thank you for the ways we can serve our families...

3. Close the meditation with a simple prayer from the heart.



MARRIAGE

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?
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- How does the Child Jesus feel about Joseph?
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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.

VOCATION LESSONS | 2nd Grade: Marriage 4

VOCAL PRAYER

5 min

Introduce the Vocation Prayer:

God will call you to a wonderful vocation, but only God knows what that is. Right now He is very happy with you as a child. Through this prayer, let us say "yes" to our vocation now and in the future.

1. Direct the students to look over the Vocation Prayer.
2. If the students are not familiar with the prayer, read a line of the Vocation Prayer, and have the children repeat it. Continue with all the lines.
3. After practicing a few times, read the Vocation Prayer all together.