

3rd Grade: Marriage

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

- To see in our own lives the purpose of family.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- The purpose of family is to help meet each other's needs in daily life and to help each other get to heaven.
- Children are in the single state of life, and they have many opportunities to serve God.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

- Complete the core components of the lesson. Select and complete other components given the time you have and the needs of your children.

INTRODUCTION

2 min

Summarize today's theme:

One of the main vocations that God calls people to is marriage. Today we will learn about why God calls people to marriage and how marriage helps people.

OPENING PRAYER

2 min

Slowly read aloud Romans 8:28 a few times, giving a few seconds of silence each time for reflection.

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- ROMANS 8:28

After the reading the scripture, pray this or another simple prayer from the heart:

Thank you, Lord, for our families. Please bless each one of the people in our families right now and help them to feel loved. Amen.

MARRIAGE

*"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."
- ROMANS 8:28*

ACTIVITY

FAMILY PORTRAIT

Use your talents to create a picture of everyone in your family helping and loving each other.



READING

THE GRUMPY FAMILY

Once there was a little girl who often put her hands over her eyes, pretending to make glasses. She did this hoping to make her family look different. What she saw without her glasses was yucky. Her mom was always impatient and rarely smiled. Her little brother was always pouting. Her older brother and sister kept arguing. Her dad grumbled around the house. The little girl with the pretend glasses was not like the rest of her family—she wanted them to be happy! Try as she might, however, she just could not make her family any better.

Then one day, Grandma and Grandpa came to visit. They brought a bag of juicy oranges for the kids to enjoy. Grandma and Grandpa were calm and laughed easily. They cheerfully helped around the house, baking cookies, washing dishes, and playing games with the kids. They didn't seem to notice that the family was always so grumpy. But the most interesting thing about the girl's grandparents was the peaceful look in their eyes as they worked together. They were so nice to each other—even though the house was too cold, the bed was too hard, and the TV was broken.

One afternoon, after her grandparents had stayed for a week, the little girl climbed up on her grandma's lap and asked, "Grandma, what is your secret? Why are you and Grandpa so happy? Why are you both so kind, even when everyone is grumpy?"

Grandma smiled at the little girl and pointed at a golden crucifix necklace she was wearing. "This is why, dear. Oh, your grandpa and I have had plenty of grumpy times, just like your family. But one day your grandpa was kneeling at Mass, and an idea came to him. He realized that family is supposed to be about helping each other! He realized the most important part of being a family is helping each other toward God."

Grandma explained that as Grandpa looked at Jesus on the cross, he prayed to be a better father and husband. He asked God to give him the grace to be patient with his wife and children and to serve them. But he didn't tell anyone about this special prayer.



VOCATION LESSONS | 3rd Grade: Marriage



TEACH

5 min

- Display the main concepts on the board.
- Teach the main concepts.
- Have the students verbally repeat the concepts, write them down, or ask questions about them to ensure their understanding.

One of the main vocations that God calls people to is marriage. Marriage is really about being together as family.

The purpose of family is to help meet one another's needs in daily life and to help each other get to heaven. Marriage helps people become holy and good. Marriage brings life to the world through children.

Children are in the single state of life and have many opportunities to serve God.



ACTIVITY

10 min

Since we will be learning about family for this vocation unit, draw a picture of everyone in your family helping and loving each other.

- Have each student draw, color, or paint a picture of everyone in his or her family helping and loving each other.

READING

10 min

1. Introduce the story.
2. Students read through “The Grumpy Family” individually, in small groups, or as a class.
3. Use the questions to spark class discussion, or assign students to write answers to the questions.

INTRODUCTION

How do family members help each other get to heaven? By showing us a tiny taste of the love that is in heaven! When you pick a flower for your mother, when your brother or sister plays your favorite game with you, or when your dad mows the grace your family shows each other the love of God.

The annoying things in family also can help us to heaven. When a mom asks her son to put away his shoes, and the boy does it, even though he didn't want to, the boy grows stronger in his soul because of his obedience. If a brother blames his sister for something she didn't do, she may feel upset. In her sadness, she might understand the suffering of Jesus.

Tonight, when you are home with your family, think about how you can help each other get to heaven! Listen to this story about a family who learned to love and help each other on their way to heaven.



MARRIAGE

READING *continued*



STEP IN THEIR SHOES

- What was the worst thing about the family?
- What do you think would have happened if the grandparents never came to visit?
- Why do you think the girl's family looked a little better?
- Who do you think is most like you in the story?
- What would you do if your family acted the way the girl's did?

Grandma continued, “At first, our family was still squabbling and grumpy, but Grandpa was always patient and joyful. Slowly, his attitude started to affect the rest of the family. One Christmas, he gave me this necklace and told me about his special prayer that day in Mass. I've worn it every day since. Every morning when I put it around my neck, I pray and ask God to help me love and serve my family.”

Then Grandma surprised the girl, saying, “But now, I'm going to give it to you.” Grandma unclasped the simple crucifix necklace and put it on the girl's neck. The little girl solemnly touched the cross. “Thank you, Grandma,” she whispered.

The next day, Grandma and Grandpa went back to their home. As the girl put on her new cross, she said a little prayer. “Thank you, God, for my family. Please help me love them.” Then the girl put her pretend glasses on and looked around at her family. She was surprised to find that they looked a little better—even when she took her glasses off!

EXPLORATION

15 min

SORTING THE FAMILY JEWELS

1. Introduce the activity:

Life in a family can be fun, frustrating, busy, boring, interesting, and comforting. The good thing is that God uses all experiences to build us into happy, healthy, and holy people. All of the family times can become like treasured jewels if we let God use them for us. A jewel is something precious that is very valuable. Let's do some sorting to find the jewels in your family experience and see how they build you into a great person.

2. Gather materials: a blank piece of paper for each student and a bucket of mixed beads, enough for each child to have about 10 beads.
3. On a piece of paper, have each child draw a tower built out of three big stones (Think about building a block tower as a little kid.). Then have him or her draw a little stick figure of him or herself on the top of the tower.
4. Give each stone a category—enjoyable, frustrating, or normal.
5. Each child should take 10 beads and spread them out onto his or her paper. These represent the jewels.
6. Students sort the beads into the three different categories. In the stones, students write down what a few of the beads stand for (i.e., bedtime stories, brushing my teeth, sharing a room with my sister, or Mom's cherry pie).
7. Show students how the tower stones, complete with all the different beads (jewels) of family life, make a strong, tall tower.

EXPLORATION

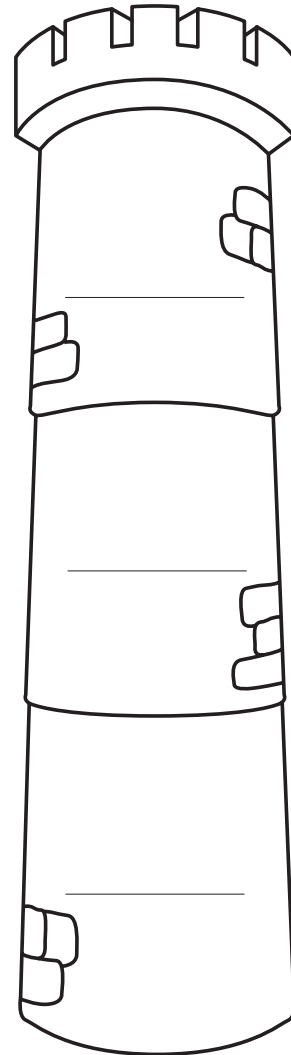
SORTING THE FAMILY JEWELS

Being part of a family can be fun, boring, and frustrating. But did you know that God can use *everything* in your family to make you a stronger person?

Instructions:

1. Draw a tower made of three large stones. Then draw yourself standing on the top.
2. Write "enjoyable" in the bottom stone, and list a few things you enjoy with your family. For each thing you list, move a "jewel" into the stone.
3. Write "frustrating" in the middle stone, and list a few things that frustrate you about your family. For each thing you list, move a "jewel" into the stone.
4. Write "normal" in the top stone, and list a few things that are a normal part of your family's day. For each thing you list, move a "jewel" into the stone.
5. Optional: glue the jewels to your paper tower.

God can use everything in your family to make you a stronger person!



VISUAL ART

10 min

1. Display “A Converted British Family Sheltering a Christian Priest from the Persecution of the Druids” by William Holman Hunt.
2. Direct students to study the painting.
3. Discuss the painting with the students, using the questions below to prompt reflection.
 - This family is protecting a priest from persecution. What do you see in the picture that shows persecution?
 - What clues from the picture tell you that the family is working together toward a good goal?

REINFORCE

5 min

Quiz the students a bit to see if they grasp the concepts. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary found at www.vocationlessons.com/glossary.

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the meditation.
Now is the time to think about God’s word and let it sink into your mind like rain that comes and waters the plants. Try to get just a little bit comfortable. You can close your eyes if you’d like.
2. Slowly read aloud Romans 8:28 a few times. Pause in between times for silent reflection.
“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” - ROMANS 8:28
3. Help the students to reflect on this quote and on their own lives.
Think in your mind about this scripture. “All things work for good for those who love God.” What things are already working for good in your life? What is working well? What is bringing you happiness and making you a good person? What activities are you doing that you like – in school, at home, after school? What are some



MARRIAGE

VISUAL ART



“A Converted British Family Sheltering a Christian Priest from the Persecution of the Druids” by William Holman Hunt

PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer

I glorify You, God,
In all that I do.
Mind, body and spirit,
My best is for You.

For us to be close, Lord,
Is what you desire.
I trust that your good love
For me will not tire.

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 | 3rd Grade: Marriage 4

of the things that don’t seem to be working for good? What seems to be hard, bothersome, or sad? Can you imagine God working these things out for your good? In life, there will be many times when things will be hard, but, like Jesus who died on the cross, we know that God will bring life out of death. The same power of God that rose Jesus from the dead is working in your life. Have faith, and rejoice that God’s power is and will work in your life. Listen to the Bible verse again. “All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” God has a purpose in your life. Let us be humble and receive the good path that God is leading us on.

CLOSING PRAYER

3 min

1. Direct the students to look over the prayer.
2. Lead the students in praying the Vocation Prayer.