

4th Grade: Marriage

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

- To appreciate ways that helping each other and loving God can be the focus of marriage, family, and the single life.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- Marriage is a man and a woman uniting in love for life.
- The main purposes of marriage and family are (1) to provide help for each other to be well and holy and (2) to bring and nurture life to the world through children.
- People in the single state of life serve God, too, as they pray and discern God's permanent call for their lives.

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.

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 consecrated life. Today we will focus on marriage and family.

MARRIAGE

"A friend is a friend at all times." – PROVERBS 17:17

OPENING ACTIVITY

FAMILY OBJECTS

Some things have strong symbolic meaning. For example, a married couple's wedding rings symbolize love and commitment.

But sometimes ordinary things can have special meaning, too. Your teacher will give the class a few objects. Explain how they symbolize family life.

When explaining, show your knowledge of family life. The more creative your answer, the better!



Ace of Clubs at the top of the deck of cards on green background

READING

Read "Louis and Zelig Martin," and then answer the reflection questions according to your teacher's directions.

LOUIS AND ZELIE MARTIN

Louis and Zelig Martin were a married couple who embraced the purpose of marriage very well. So well, in fact, that they both were beatified, which is a major step toward becoming a saint. One of their daughters became a saint – St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower!

The point of every vocation (religious life, marriage, or priesthood) is to help people live in happiness with God, and a great marriage like that of Louis and Zelig Martin does that.

Before they were married, Louis and Zelig Martin were both strong, faith-filled, smart, and hardworking young adults. When they first met, Zelig felt like God whispered to her, "This is the husband I have destined for you." Zelig was not interested in love at first sight or in fairytales, but her goal in everything was to do the will of God.

Louis was a good-natured man. When the two of them got married, Louis hoped that their friendship would lead them both to become more holy. Zelig wanted lots of children, and God did give them many. They were amazing parents—affectionate but strict, focused on education and discipline but full of warmth, happiness and play. Above all they taught their children the love of Our Lord. Daily prayers were said kneeling before a statue of the Blessed Mother, and many wonderful conversations were had about Jesus. Both Louis and Zelig worked hard for their family. Louis was a watchmaker and Zelig was a very well-known lace maker.



VOCATION LESSONS | 4th Grade: Marriage



OPENING PRAYER

2 min

Slowly read Proverbs 17:17 several times, allowing a few seconds of silent reflection between times.

*"A friend is a friend at all times."
– PROVERBS 17:17*

Pray this or another simple prayer from the heart:

Thank you, Lord, for this day and for our lives. We place in your hands all the concerns of our minds and love you in the midst of all our actions. Please guide us now as we seek a glimpse of your plan for your people and the powerful ways you call us.



TEACH

5 min

Teach the main concepts about marriage, family, and the single state of life.

- *Marriage is a vocation where God calls a man and a woman to share in his work by being a family.*
- *The man and woman share in this mission as husband and wife through helping each other to become good and holy.*
- *Another way the husband and wife share in this mission is by lovingly raising children.*
- *Before getting married or becoming a priest or religious, people are in the single state of life. They live their lives generously for others as they pray and discern God's permanent call for their life. Sometimes people stay single their whole lives and are able to serve people generously.*

OPENING ACTIVITY

5 min

FAMILY OBJECTS

1. Bring in several objects related to married life (a tie, pot and pan, broom, rosary, bible, or a deck of cards).
2. Randomly give each student one of the objects.
3. Ask students to explain how their object is related to marriage and how a family can use it to help each other. Students can explain with words or pantomime.

Sample answers:

A tie points to Dad working to provide for the family, the pot and pan point to Mom cooking meals for the family, a broom reminds us of how the whole family pitches in to keep the house clean, the rosary points to how the family prays together, and a deck of cards could signify how a family has fun and brings joy to each other.



MARRIAGE

READING *continued*



*Home of Bl. Louis and Zélie Martin,
Birthplace of Saint Thérèse*

Image courtesy of Pierre-Yves Emile.

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Even though they were good at so many things, not everything was easy. In fact, four of their nine children died when they were young. The Martins lived during tense political times and sometimes had to have soldiers living in their house with them. Some of these soldiers even stole from them. Most difficult of all, Zélie got cancer and was in great pain often for eight years.

Through all of their trials and joys of marriage, Louis and Zélie embraced the circumstances of life as the will of God and lived it with love and honor. Finally, at the age of 46, Louis Martin's beloved wife and best friend left this life and went to heaven. Louis continued to raise his five daughters to love and follow God, until, at the age of 63, he died and joined his wife in heaven. In 2008, Louis and Zélie Martin were declared "Blessed" (the last step before being declared saints) by Pope Benedict XVI.

BE CURIOUS:

1. What is the purpose of marriage?
2. What do you think makes a good parent?
3. What made Zélie and Louis' marriage so great?
4. What are some ways to make God a big part of family?
5. What do you think would be the hardest thing about Louis and Zélie Martin's life?
6. What would be the most exciting?

EXPLORATION



SECRET MISSION

Imagine that Louis and Zélie Martin received a secret mission note from the Pope when they were first married. What did this note say? Write it. Your description of the mission needs to show that you understand the purpose of family. Decorate an envelope for the secret mission.

Imagine that your own family received a similar secret mission letter from the Pope. What did this note say? Write it. Your description of the mission needs to show that you understand the purpose of family. Decorate an envelope for the secret mission.

READING

10 min

1. Direct students to read "Louis and Zélie Martin" 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.

EXPLORATION

10 min

SECRET MISSION

Assign one of the following activities to your students.

VISUAL ART

5 min

1. Display “The Angelus” by Jean Francios Millet.
2. Direct students to analyze the image and answer the reflection questions in light of today’s theme.

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.

SONG

5 min

1. Direct the students to look over the song lyrics.
2. Introduce the song, and briefly explain some of the difficult words.
 - “Consecrated” in this song does not mean consecrated in the same way that a monk or a nun would take a vow, but it has the same sense. It means set apart for a special purpose, dedicated.
 - “Impulse” means action.
 - “Not a mite” means not even a little bit.
 - “Withhold” means to keep something back.As you listen to this song, think about your own life with God. What mission does God have for you now? How is he calling you? With this song, say, “Yes” to Our Lord in every area of your life that you can. Sing along if you wish.
3. Play the song “Take My Life and Let It Be” by Vineyard Music.



MARRIAGE

VISUAL ART

The Angelus is a traditional prayer prayed a number of times a day. Oftentimes a bell rings, and people stop what they were doing to pray.

- How does this couple show that they put God first in their life?
- What indication do you have from this scene that the couple helps each other?
- How can you tell that they are humbling themselves before God?
- What kind of a mood do the colors of this painting convey?



The Angelus
by Jean Francios Millet

SONG

TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my heart and let it be
Dedicated Lord to Thee.



Video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FBvoRwNyB0>

Take my Love, my God I pour
At thy feet thy treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only for my King,
Ever, only for my King.

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the meditation.
Single people—like you—who have not gotten married or who have not taken vows are called to be part of Christ's mission right now!! Take some time to listen to this incredible challenge to single people given by Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in 1993. As you listen, realize that these words are meant for you.
2. Slowly read aloud the quote from Pope John Paul II. Pause in between phrases for silent reflection.
3. Help the students to reflect on this quote and their own lives.
In the silence of your heart, ask God, "How do you want me to be a missionary this week? How are you calling me? Please give me the courage." Speak to God and listen to him in your heart now.

CLOSING PRAYER

2 min

1. Direct the students to look over the *Prayer for Generosity* by St. Ignatius of Loyola.
2. Lead the students in praying this prayer aloud together.



MARRIAGE

MEDITATIVE PRAYER



From 1993 World Youth Day

CHALLENGE TO YOUTH BY SAINT JOHN PAUL II

"Do not be afraid to go out into the streets and into public places, like the first Apostles who preached Christ and the good news of salvation in the city squares, towns, and villages. This is not time to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is the time to preach it from the rooftops.

"Do not be afraid to break out of comfortable and routine modes of living, in order to take up the challenge of making Christ known in modern "metropolis." It is you who must go out into the by-rounds and invite everyone you meet to the banquet which God has prepared for his people.

"The Gospel must not be kept hidden because of fear or indifference. It is has to be put on a stand so that people may see its light and give praise to the Heavenly Father."

PRAY TOGETHER

Prayer for Generosity
– St. Ignatius of Loyola

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you
as you deserve,

to give and not to count the cost,

to fight and not to
heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labor and not to ask
for any reward,

save that of knowing that
I am doing your will.

AMEN.