



MARRIAGE

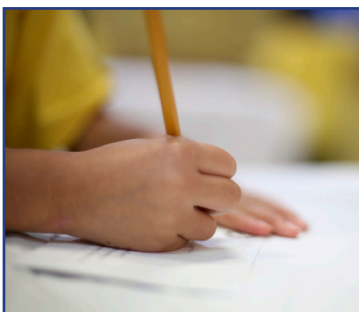
“We speak God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory...But as it is written: ‘What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.’ This God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.”

- 1 CORINTHIANS 2:7, 9, 10

OPENING ACTIVITY

CHAIN STORY ABOUT MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Work together with a group to write a story about a man and woman who meet, get married, raise a family, and then have grandchildren.



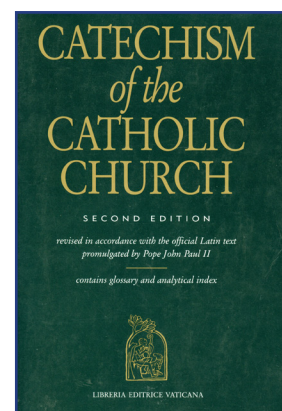
1. The first person in the group begins the story and writes for one minute.
2. After a minute is up, the first student stops writing and folds the paper so that only the last line of writing shows. He then passes it to the next student who writes for one minute.
3. This continues until all students in the group have had a turn.
4. The last student in each group finishes the story.
5. Unfold the stories, and read them out loud.

READING

Read through the passages “Why God Made Me?” and “Marriage,” and answer the reflection questions according to your teacher’s directions.

WHY GOD MADE ME

There is a terrific reference book for learning about the Catholic faith. It is called the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Its words can be difficult to understand, but the truths it contains are very simple and deep. We’ll look at few passages today to help understand the purpose of life and marriage.



Have you ever stopped to wonder why God made you? This is a very normal thing to wonder. This is one of the most important questions to ask, and its answer is the key to the meaning of life. Understanding why God made you can influence why you do what you do and how you chose to live your life. It can mean the difference between true happiness in life or fake happiness that does not last. A person who understands the answer to this question is like someone who holds in his hands pure gold instead of a big, cheap, plastic gold ring.

So, what is the answer? Why did God make you? Here’s what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

“For if man exists, it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator.” [1]

[1] *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Paragraph 27.



MARRIAGE

READING *continued*

In other words, God made you because he loves you. It is his love for you that urged him to create you. Wow!

Furthermore, “Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.”² Only in God can you, I, and every person be truly and completely happy! How do we respond to God’s love? We receive his love and love him in return, for man is “created in God’s image and called to know and love him.”^[2]

Your family has a special role to help you know God, receive his love, love him, serve him, and find your happiness in him. The Bible says that to love God whom we cannot see means that we love the people we can see. So, loving your family members is a way to know, love, and serve God.

MARRIAGE

Read these passages from the Catechism on marriage. The words may be challenging, but try to understand the main idea of each passage.

1601 The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life...this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

1603 God himself is the author of marriage. The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures.



1604 Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator’s eyes.

1661 The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church.

Below are some of the concepts about marriage taken from the Catechism that have been reworded. Match these statements with the correct catechism passage above. Write the Catechism paragraph number to the right of each statement.

- A true marriage must be chosen by each person freely—not pressured or forced.
- A couple’s marriage continues until one of the spouses dies.
- The husband and wife become a sign of Christ’s presence.
- Love of husband and wife reflect the love of God.
- God is the one who made marriage.
- Marriage is a sacrament.

YOUR OWN SPIN

- Which passage from the Catechism of the Catholic Church stands out to you most?
- How can knowing the reason God made you affect how you live in your family?

EXPLORATION

MARRIAGE IN THE CATECHISM

1. Practice with a partner memorizing one of the passages about marriage from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
2. Identify three ways that this passage can be lived out in a family.

[2] *Ibid.*



MARRIAGE

VISUAL ART



MARRIAGE IS HOLY

Study the image in light of today's theme.

1. What are your first thoughts when you see this photo?
2. What does the cross in the middle symbolize?
3. Does this couple seem to be starting marriage right?
How so?

PRAY TOGETHER

Actiones Nostra

Father, may everything we do
begin with your inspiration
and continue
with your saving help.

Let our work always find
its origin in you

and through you reach
completion.

We ask this
through Christ our Lord.

AMEN