Thursday of Respect Life Week
Marriage/Family Life
Grades 4-6

Theme: The Love of Family

Goal: Marriage and family are a vital and important part of our society.

Materials: Bible
Wedding Feast at Cana (video link)

Scripture: Jesus’ first miracle - Wedding Feast at Cana (video link)

Jesus wanted to begin His ministry at a wedding to show us that His mission, like the mission of this newly married couple, is a mission of love. This couple is giving their whole lives to each other. Jesus came to give Himself totally to us.

Questions for Discussion
What happened at the wedding that needed Jesus’ attention?
What did Jesus do that was a miracle?
Why do you think Jesus chose a wedding to be the place of his first miracle?
(Jesus wanted to begin His ministry at a wedding to show us that His mission, like the mission of this newly married couple, is a mission of love. This couple is giving their whole lives to each other. Jesus came to give Himself totally to us.)

Lesson: Family is the place where we first learn what love looks like. In marriage, Jesus calls spouses to a love that is free, faithful, full, and fruitful.

Questions for Discussion
What does marriage mean?
How would you describe marriage?
Why do you think marriage is important?
Would you like to get married when you grow up?
Why or why not?
Why is family important?
What does it mean to be faithful in love?
What does it mean to freely choose to love?
What does it mean to give yourself fully in love?
How is love in marriage fruitful?

Activity: Have students divide into teams to create a poster depicting love that is 1) freely given (chosen with generosity and joy!), 2) faithful (through all the ups and downs of life), 3) full (a total gift of my whole life and heart), 4) fruitful (bringing new life to the world through children and family). Have each team share their poster with the class.
Prayer:

God of us all,
you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love help our families
in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family, with the help of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families to be homes of communion and prayer.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website.