

Marriage

Thursday of Respect Life Week – October 2021

Marriage and Family

Grades 4-6

Goal: Students will learn that marriage and family are a vital and important part of our society and our faith.

Materials: Miracle at Cana ([video link](#))
The Domestic Church ([video link](#))
The Sullivan Family ([video link](#))

Watch: Miracle at Cana ([video link](#))

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.)

Through marriage, God calls a husband and wife to form a family. The family is also called the “domestic church” because we are meant to learn about our faith and God’s love through the love in our families. Though our homes and families are not perfect, they are sacred places. God desires to be close to us not only when we go to church on Sunday but also in the domestic church of our homes and families.

Watch: The Domestic Church ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

What does it mean to “be the Church in the world”? How can your family use your gifts to serve others and share the faith?

How would seeing your home as a sacred place change the way you speak, act, and treat your family members?

Why is the domestic church important?

Activity: Have the students create a “Domestic Church Bulletin” about their family (modelled on a classic church bulletin). It can include announcements about upcoming family events (a family wedding, family game night), prayer intentions for their family, a “staff list” (with various duties/responsibilities each person in the family has).

Watch: The Sullivan Family ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

How is the Sullivan family living as a domestic church?

What do you think are some of the challenges of having a big family? What are some of the joys?

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.