

## Marriage

Thursday of Respect Life Week – January 2022

### Marriage and Family

Grades 7-9

**Goal:** Marriage and family are a vital and important part of our society. Marriage numbers are decreasing around the world. And, there is much confusion about the nature of marriage and why people even ought to get married. Students will explore the benefits of marriage for individuals and society and learn how to have a successful marriage.

**Materials:** What is Marriage? ([video link](#))  
Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage ([video link](#)) (scroll to 2<sup>nd</sup> video on the page)

**Watch:** What is Marriage? ([video link](#))

In marriage, Jesus calls spouses to a love that is **free, faithful, full, and fruitful**. Faithful love says, “I’ll love you forever, no matter what.” Free love says, “I choose to love you.” Full love says, “I love you with my whole self.” Fruitful love says, “I want to share our love with children, in a family.”

#### Questions for Discussion

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?

**Watch:** Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage ([video link](#)) (scroll to 2<sup>nd</sup> video on the page)

In popular culture, the true love and hardship of marriage is rarely discussed. Giving the students an open opportunity to communicate what they understand about marriage can help them learn together all the blessings that marriage can bring.

#### Questions for Discussion:

What is the difference between a youthful, passionate love and a matured, long lasting love?  
What have you learned from the married couples in your life?  
What has watching the love of married couples taught you about the love of God?  
How is marriage a calling?  
Should marriage be easy?

**Prayer:**

*God and Father of us all,  
in Jesus, 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 aid of your Holy Spirit,  
guide all families, to be homes of communion and prayer  
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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