



**Thursday of Respect Life Week
Marriage
Grades PK-K**

Theme: Marriage and Family are a vital and important part of our society.

Goal: To introduce children to the concept and understanding of marriage as a sacramental bond between a man and a woman that is lasting, loving and fruitful, and that marriage is the basis of the family.

Materials: Bible
Sesame Street: *Family Song* ([video link](#))

Lesson: Introduce the topic of marriage and family. Marriage is a sacrament. It is a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman to love each other and together raise children they might have. Marriage is what forms families. And, families are the foundation of the world. Everyone belongs to a family. And, while sometimes families have to separate a bit, they are still families. Every person is born to a father and a mother. This is how God chose to create new people in the world.

Scripture: Read the Nativity Story

Questions for Discussion

Who is the family in this story?

Who is Mary? (Jesus' mother) Who is Joseph? (Jesus' father)

Who is Jesus? (the Son of God)

Do you think Mary and Joseph were excited to see baby Jesus?

Do you think Jesus was happy to be born into a family? Why?

Why do we need families?

Do you think it would have been difficult to be Jesus' mom or dad on earth?

What do you think Jesus liked to do when he was little?

Do you know what it was like the day you were born? Who was there? Was it warm or cold out?

How do you think your parents felt when they saw you for the first time?

Video: Sesame Street: *Family Song* ([video link](#))

Questions for Discussion

Who are some people in your family that you like to do things with?
We all have family near or far, what are some memories about your family?
What are some things that you are thankful for about your family?
Everyone's family is different, but what are some things that are the same? (e.g. love, food together, feeling of safety)
Do you ever think of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as part of your family?
How can they be a part of your family? (e.g., pray, talk to them, tell them about your day)

Lesson: Family: Where we learn how to love!

God wants each of us to have a family so we can learn how to love one another. A mom and dad have a special job in showing their children what it means to love. Love is doing what is good for someone else. Ask the students: "What are some things you do in your family to show that you love each other." Families teach us that we are loved *no matter what!*

Activity: Jesus teaches us to pray for our family members. Pray one decade of the rosary together. Before each "Hail Mary" ask students to name a family member he/she wants to pray for and use paper circles as the "beads" on which you write the name of those you pray for and then tape each bead to the wall as you pray the decade.

Prayer: *God our Father, thank you for my family,
for hugs and kisses and special times together.*

*Thank you for my friends,
for laughter and chatting and sharing.*

*Thank you for my home,
for rest times and bed times.*

*Thank you for playtimes, for toys and games and books,
and for helping me to enjoy them all.*

Amen.

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