

# I Will Stay True

## Why Marriage and Family Matters

### Grades 4-6 Lesson



#### **Goal:**

Students will be introduced to the topic of marriage and family as a good for individuals and society. Through stories and activities, they will look at the effects of marriage on adults, children, and the entire culture.

#### **Materials:**

Website Links

**Scripture:** Jesus' first miracle in Cana. Watch "Wedding Feast at Cana" video.

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?

*(There are many answers to this question, but for the sake of our discussion the answer should be—because Jesus wanted to show the importance of marriage and family at the center of his teaching and ministry. A theological explanation has to do with the fact that Jesus compares the commitment of fruitful love between a man and a woman in marriage to the committed fruitful love between Christ and his bride, the Church.)*

Did Jesus' miracle help people celebrate the wedding better? Why is that important?

#### **Teaching (notes for teachers):**

The topic of marriage has been highly politicized in our culture in recent years, resulting in a great deal of confusion. Add to that the reality that so many children live in homes with unmarried parents or divorce parents or only one parent, and we are often left believing that it is better to not teach about the reality of marriage rather than offend any student.

Actually, the opposite is true. By teaching the truth of marriage—a loving, permanent commitment between a man and a woman to each other and any children they may have—we allow students to realize that God did intend something special for us; that we are made for and capable of lasting, authentic love; and that even if they do not have this example at home, they can still aspire to it as adults. Rather than offending, this teaching is liberating.

What is offered here is a short introduction to the topic for this age category. For additional resources or formation material on marriage and family, please see website for resources for parents and teachers.

## Watch Videos:

**What Does Marriage Mean?** This light-hearted video interviews kids to ask what they know about marriage and if they would ever like to get married. Some deep truths are shared, such as when children see their mom and dad loving and supporting each other, they feel more secure. After watching the video, ask students how they would talk about marriage and if they would like to get married when they grow up. Why or why not?

## How to Dad and/or Real Strength

Both of these short, humorous videos illustrate the unique place of dads in families and their special role in the lives of their kids. Rather than stereotype, both celebrate dads in all their goofiness and strength. Questions: What makes these dads so great? What is the greatest strength of your own dad? Who is the best example of a dad you know of? Why?

## The Unique Connection and/or Being Mom

Both of these videos illustrate the strong bond between moms and kids, and the unique role moms play in the lives of their families. Questions: What makes these moms so great? What is the greatest attribute of your own mom? Who is the best example of a mom you know of? Why?

## Pray:

Prayer for World Meeting of Families

God and Father of us all,  
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,  
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, especially those most troubled,  
to be homes of communion and prayer  
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

