

Fifth Grade: Lesson 14
The Sacrament of Matrimony

Lesson Objective:

Lessons 14 and 15 explore the sacraments at the service of communion. The Church's teaching on marriage is strikingly counter-cultural. It is important for children to understand that God, as creator of the universe, defines what marriage is and what marriage is not. The teaching on the sacrament of Matrimony reflects God's plan for marriage. **This lesson must be taught with sensitivity as many children suffer through the pain of divorce/separation or have family situations that are contrary to these teachings.**

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Know that we are created in God's image as male or female (Gen 1-3; CCC 369-372).
- Explain matrimony as a celebration of a grace-filled covenant and union between a man and a woman (Gen 2:18-25; CCC1601-1605).
- Discuss that the self-giving love of the sacrament mirrors Christ's divine love for His Church (Ephesians5:21-33; CCC 1615, 1642,1661).
- Demonstrate that man comes to know himself through a gift-of-self.
- Discuss the characteristics of marriage as permanence, loving fidelity, openness to children, and mutual support (CCC1601-1617).
- Identify the couple as the ministers of the sacrament (CCC 1623).
- List and explain the signs and symbols of Matrimony (CCC 1621-1628).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils
- Copies: Sacramental Word Search (optional), The Four Goods of Marriage, God's Plan for Marriage and Family, What Happens at a Wedding (optional)

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a Sacramental word search ready for students to work on as they wait for class to begin.
- [Sacramental Word Search](#)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sacraments

K D I S C I P L E S U S M S K D G B B W M F K O
P V F T C C O M M U N I O N Q D I E W X I E Z P
D T K N H M Y J E C N A N E P G M K C X W L M
O S E R N G U M I O E V O L I I R H D P C M B N
G E B C N G B R M Q N J F R N C R T U H Y S T O
O I V R A V O Q C L D N E N C O M M U N I T Y I
K R L E E R M B P H S A I S I C P G O S P P Q T
G P J Z N A G R L U Q N Y G U G W G K B H H M A
G G N Y H R D H M E G A F P J S L E H L F Y W M
R C F R K U W C A H S H Z B Q J K K W H R Y N R
E A A E U T F E Z R H S Z T S I R A H C U E E I
C T M H W F I X K O X F E Q L D I Y S Z W Y I F
Q H I T N N H A L T I B G D Q V G R O V X P K N
N O L A M K T Y X U V N O I T A I T I N I K B O
C L Y G L M K H X T G D C G A Q K K C R Q T X C
I I V X Z T T L T P F O L X G Y R B V Q E S Z J
L C T A N O I N T I N G O F T H E S I C K X D C
I F D O R A V S T I T O H W U M A T R I M O N Y
A S M B L I O P J X C Y I H C Q K X L H J N Q S
T N P S M R U G H B J T H A P S U T E G V F Q S
I F M T J G N U H P K K R R A D J S Z I U O Q T
O N H T I A F I H O L Y S P I R I T P W X F J I
N L L J C Q Z E J P T N E M A R C A S Z W L U K
X H O L Y O R D E R S S T A B A P T I S M H W T

beginning	initiation	bread	oil
Holy Spirit	priest	community	gather
love	faith	family	catholic
disciples	Jesus	blesed	church
Holy Orders	Matrimony	Anointing of the Sick	Reconciliation
Penance	Communion	Eucharist	Confirmation
Baptism	grace	sacrament	

Opening Prayer

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer of your choice.
- Ask a few questions about the sacraments that you learned in past lessons, such as: How many sacraments do we have? What are the two sacraments of Initiation? What can you share with us about the Anointing of the Sick?

Lesson 14 Video

This video is 4:37 in length.

Highlights: At our last session, we learned about the Anointing of the Sick, which is the second Sacrament of Healing.

What is the first Sacrament of Healing? (Reconciliation).

Today we are talking about the Sacrament of Matrimony, which is a Sacrament of Vocation and Service. The Sacrament of Matrimony is also known as marriage. It is based in the Bible with Jesus, and like all Sacraments, it is how God gives us grace.

In Genesis chapter 2, we learn about the story of Adam and Eve, the first couple to be married. Matrimony is a covenant between a man and a woman. The love between the two of them is a self-giving love that mirrors Christ's divine love for His Church.

Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

We heard how a man and woman are called to love each other out of their love and reverence for Christ, how we should love each other as we love ourselves, and how the two also become one.



The CCC 1600-1666 helps us understand more fully how matrimony is to be lived out.

The minister in the Sacrament of Matrimony is the bridal couple themselves. The priest is a witness. And

	<p>just like all the other sacraments, there are signs and symbols associated with marriage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outward sign is the consent of the two people, as expressed in their wedding vows. • The wedding rings are symbols of unity, that has no beginning or end. • The final blessing is a symbol that gives blessing to the union of the two people married. <p>This is a Sacrament of Service because when someone is married, they need to help each other live faithfully as Christians.</p>
Sacraments of Service Song	<p>This Christine in Action video is .50 in length.</p> <p>It is a fun way to highlight the important points of the two Sacraments of Service.</p>
What is Marriage?	<p>This is a sketchpad video and is 3:40 in length (but is done at 3:35).</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Real love is much more than a feeling. It is an act of the will. Why: The best foundation for real love is a deep friendship that wills the good of the other. Therefore, love in the sense of a true and deep friendship is an act of the will, since we will the good of the other.</p> <p>Among all the friends a person may have, there is one friendship that is unique because it is exclusive, since we relate to only one person. In this unique friendship, we also find unique expressions of love. This exclusive relationship is normally called marriage.</p> <p>The Christian faith gives us a new and deeper perspective of marriage because Christ raised marriage to the dignity of a sacrament. This means the marriage between a man and woman is not only a natural union, but a sacred sign. It signifies the relationship between Christ and the Church. Whenever two baptized Christians enter</p>

	<p>an exclusive partnership before God and the Church, they say I do to a lifelong fidelity, to mutual self-giving and to the children that God will send them.</p> <p>As a sacrament, marriage is a source of grace and strength. In a marriage, both people have to learn what it means to will the good of the other. It will mean a call to die to oneself and to live for the other person. Since this is precisely the message of Christ, Christian marriage reveals itself as a true discipleship of Christ and as a real path to holiness.</p>
Marriage: Why Make it Catholic	<p>This is a Busted Halo video and is 7:37 in length. It ends at 7:14. Please make a note that this video explains things very well. I have made a note as to what point in the video each question is posed, in order to help you facilitate what can be a sensitive and difficult topic to discuss with your students. The content is addressed with age-appropriateness for your students.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Why have a Catholic Wedding?</p> <p>CCC 1603: The vocation of marriage is written in the very nature of a man and woman, as they came from the hand of God, our creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution.</p> <p>Catholics describe marriage as a vocation and is a call from God to live our lives in a certain way. Marriage is the permanent, faithful, and fruitful union of a man and woman, who entered into a covenant relationship of love with one another and with God.</p> <p>Society defines marriage as a contract between two people that has conditions and may be terminated under certain circumstances. But, for Catholics, the marriage covenant is sealed and strengthened by God and may not be dissolved.</p>

Civil marriage is a marriage that doesn't involve the Church and is very different from the Sacrament of Marriage. So much so, that the Catholic Church does not consider a couple to be married if they were married outside the church.

As Catholics, we are asked to keep God present in every part of our lives: work, school, activities, etc... Why would a lifelong commitment, like marriage, be any different?

RELECTION/DISCUSSION: Ask students if they have any thoughts or questions to share? If students are quiet, consider posing the last question: Why would a lifelong commitment, like marriage, be any different?

2:24: Why does it take so long to get married in the Catholic Church?

Marriage is a sacrament and just like First Communion or Confirmation, there needs to be time spent preparing for it. Similar to when a priest is ordained, marriage is a vocation for life. The Church wants to make sure a couple is prepared for marriage and to prevent something impulsive or hasty from occurring. Typically, an engaged couple meets with a priest and/staff 6-12 months before the wedding.

3:10: What kind of advice can a celibate priest give a couple about marriage?

Priests provide a spiritual component of marriage preparation and lay people and married couples are the primary guides in Catholic marriage preparation.

3:35 What exactly is Catholic marriage preparation?

It is a tool to help a couple create a loving, faithful, and lifelong marriage. This process, also

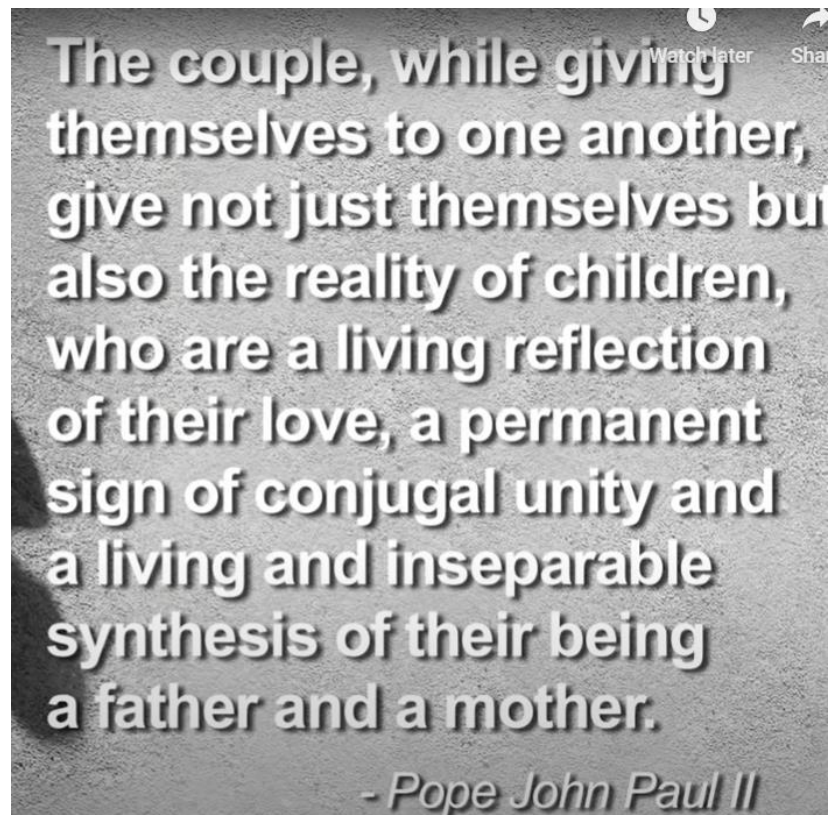
known as Pre-Cana, is a little different in each Diocese. It includes:

- Spirituality of marriage
- Reflections on raising children
- Finances, communication and problem solving
- Benefits of NFP

The most important part of this process is to prepare the couple to truly mean what they say during the marriage ceremony. What makes the Sacrament of Matrimony valid are the promises made by the bride and groom. The video then reviews the typical wording of the wedding vows.

5:35 What do our future kids have to do with anything? Why does the Church insist we have children?

The Sacrament of Marriage includes fruitful love, which means procreating and educating children born as the fruit of their love.



	<p>Couples are asked to openly accept children; it's a requirement. If they say no to this, they should not be married in the Catholic Church. Marriage is about selfless love and when a couple becomes parents, they are truly at the service of others. This is known as the domestic church: two parents sharing their moral, spiritual, and faith life with their children.</p> <p>Faith begins at home</p> <p>REFLECTION/DISCUSSION: Once again, allow students to share their thoughts or ask questions. If any questions become uncomfortable for you to answer, consider this: Although we may not have the answer, or fully understand something, God does. It's okay to say that some concepts must be taken in the spirit of faith. Faith means following what God says, even when we don't fully understand. Faith is a journey and we are constantly learning.</p>
Sacrament of Matrimony	<p>This video is 2:52 in length and is a review of material covered in the first two videos.</p> <p>Based on your students and the amount of time you have left; you may want to skip this video.</p>
Intro into the Activities	<p>This video is 1:02 in length.</p> <p>Carla reviews the 4 Goods of Marriage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Partnership 2) Permanence 3) Fidelity 4) Fruitfulness
The Four Goods of Marriage	<p>Read all together Ephesians 5:21 and then discuss how this part of scripture relates to the 4 Goods. Students can draw or sketch a picture in each box.</p>
God's Plan for Marriage and Family Life	<p>This activity requires students to read from four parts of scripture. A few different ways to do this activity:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all together, reading from scripture and then providing time for students to write down their thoughts. • Students work with a partner and complete the activity. Provide sharing time when everyone is done. • Depending on the number of students in your class, you could place students in groups of 2-3 and assign one Bible passage to each group. Students work on their portion and then come back together and share with the class.
What Happens at a Wedding	<p>This is a handout of the order that a Catholic Mass would follow for a wedding.</p> <p>Only copy if you think it is helpful for students.</p>
Closing Prayer	End your class with a traditional Catholic prayer.