

Preview

Main Ideas

- 1) Marriage is more about loyalty and sacrifice than about "love." Marriage is not about being happy or getting what you want; it's about sacrifice and serving one another.
- 2) Marriage is not just committing to your spouse, but a commitment to community, to those who came before you and those who will come after you.
- 3) The research is very clear: The best place for children is in a stable, married, two-parent home. Turns out that is the best place for the adults, too.

Activities

- 1) Discuss with your parents why they chose to get married. How has marriage helped them in their life.
- 2) Learn about your ancestors – who did they marry? How many children did they have? Any fun stories about their life?
- 3) Build a three-legged stool with blocks. If you remove one leg, it weakens its ability to stand. Marriage is like the third leg, helping to strengthen and commit husband and wife to each other and their family.

Month 7: Why Marriage Matters

Resource 1: Marriage is building a life together.

Parent

Cornerstone vs Capstone Marriage



Family

Marriage lays the cornerstone for a successful life.



Why is a cornerstone approach to marriage important?

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Resource 2: How Marriage helps individuals and communities

Parent

America's Biggest Issue: Marriage



Family

Strong Communities



Why do you think marriage decreases poverty and societal crime?

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Resource 3: Qualities of Marriage

Parent

Consumer vs Covenant Marriage



Family

Covenant Marriage



What are some important qualities in marriage? Why?

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Resource 4: Understanding and Respecting Our Bodies – Discussing Chastity and Puberty

Parent

10 Unconventional Pieces of Marriage Advice from Divorce Lawyers



List qualities Carl and Ellie have that made their marriage so lasting and strong. How did they demonstrate their commitment to one another?

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Family

Ellie & Carl



Resource 5: Marriage Makes Strong Communities

Parent

Why Marriage Matters



What have you learned about marriage, so far? Which point in the Jeopardy Game was most impactful for you?

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Family

Test your knowledge and learn some new things in a fun way!



Resource 6: Successful communities care about marriage

Parent

Marriage is a Community Affair



Is marriage about just the couple, or are there other people involved? How have extended family members helped your family?

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Family

Father and Brother help groom



Resource 7: Marriage Ties a Family Together

Parent

The Number One Social Justice Imperative is Marriage



How does marriage help families through hard times?

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Family

Tying the Knot



Resource 8: Marriage is about Commitment and Selfless Service

Parent

What's in it for Men?



Family

Enduring Love



- Do you think that the husband is happy to help his wife? Why?
- Do you think it is hard for him? Hard for her?
- How did this husband show qualities of covenant marriage to his wife?

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Resource 9: The Truth About Marriage

Parent

What is Marriage Part 1



Family

Otto's Tales — Truth, Lies, Fire, and Water



- What are some truths about marriage?
- Compare those truths to what society and our culture is saying about marriage.

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Resource 10: Marriage brings happiness

Parent

Marriage Facts



Family

Marriage



Research shows there are a variety of benefits for married people. Which benefits can you recognize in married couples you know?

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Review

Parent

Discussion Questions Survey



Family

Talking Point Typing Game



Which talking points are most compelling to you?

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Role Play #1

Scenario

You and a friend hear a TV show say that marriage should just be between two people who love each other and if that love leaves, there's no reason to stay married.

What would you say to your friend?

Response

Talking Point: Unmarried individuals had higher rates of mortality (death) than married people – about 50 percent higher for women and 250 percent higher for men. Married people had better physical health and psychological well-being than divorced, separated, never-married or widowed people.¹ People who were married reported the highest levels of well-being, regardless of whether they were happily married or not.²

1) "The Benefits of Marriage," National Center for Policy Analysis, Daily Policy Alert, (2006, 4 January).
2) Claire Kamp Dush and Paul Amato, "Consequences of Relationship Status and Quality for Subjective Well-Being," Journal of Social and Personal Relationships 22(5) (2005): 607-627. 20.

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Role Play #2

Scenario

A friend says they doesn't want to get married until they have completed all their goals first – including establishing their career and having some money on hand.

What would you say?

Response

Talking Point: Among couples who married and stayed married, the per person net worth increased on average by 16 percent with each year of marriage. Compared to those who remained single, getting married increased one's wealth, on average, by 93 percent.¹

1) Jay Zagorsky, "Marriage and Divorce's Impact on Wealth," Journal of Sociology 41(4) (2005): 406-424. Cited in: Want to be Wealthy? Try Marriage, Cable News Network, (2006, 18 January).

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Reflect

Parent

Review some Homefront Project articles/videos from the Marriage Matters unit.



Family

1. What did you learn?
2. What do you want to do differently?
3. What were you surprised by?
4. With whom do you want to share what you learned?

Which was your favorite resource or video?

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Summarize & Share

Parent

Unit Survey



Family

Which is your favorite image to share from the Marriage Matters unit?



Who will you share this with?

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