

OVERVIEW

Marriage is a sacred union instituted by God from the very beginning of history. In marriage, man and woman become united in one flesh, Marriage is a holy and sacred union, and a representation of Christ's love for the Church.

OHANA TIME!

Icebreaker: What was one of your favorite family activities growing up as a child? **Or** Do you own a pet? How did your pet get its name?

Activity: Draw/paint a picture of your favorite family memory.

PRAYER

Pray in groups of 2-3: Pray for marriages – that they may reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church, and be a testimony of God's love and grace.

Pray in a large group: Pray against forces of evil that seek to steal, kill, and destroy marriages and families.

BIBLE: READ GENESIS 2:15-25

1. What responsibilities are given to man (see verses 15 and 19-20). What command is given to man (verse 16)?
2. Why do you think God said "it is not good for man to be alone" in verse 18?
3. What do you think God means when he referred to Eve as a "helper" in verse 20? What does this story say to you about the relationship between man and woman?
4. What are some ways that this account can be misunderstood or misinterpreted with regards to the role or value of women?
5. Why do you think marriage (verse 24) is included in the creation narrative? How does God view marriage and family?
6. What is the significance of a man and woman "leaving" their respective families to join together to create a new one? In what ways is man and woman united as one flesh in marriage?
7. What is God's desire/plan for marriage? (See Matthew 19:3-9) Why does God value faithfulness and unity in marriage?
8. What forces do you see in play in our culture and society today that undermine marriage and family?

APPLICATION

1. For married couples: Marriage is a miniature depiction of the gospel. As Jesus Christ (the groom) loved and died for the church (bride), so should our marriages point to the faithful and sacrificial love of God. What are you most grateful about for your spouse? How do you complement one another? What has your spouse taught you about Jesus?

For singles: How have you been blessed and privileged in your singleness and what are some of the challenges you've faced?
2. A beautiful, tender, thriving marriage makes the gospel visible on earth. How is God using your marriage or family to bring hope, encouragement, and strength to those around you today?

