Religious Education Lesson Plans
Sacrament of Matrimony

*Note: YOUCAT is referenced as Y. with number of question referenced following. Compendium Catechism of Catholic Faith is referenced as C. with number corresponding to questions in Compendium. For example, information on the seven sacraments can be found in the YOUCAT question number 173 and in the Compendium, with question number 321. it is noted as (Y. 173, C. 321)

Marriage: Lesson Plan #1

Objectives:

The children will understand:
- The Church has seven sacraments. These sacraments are Christ’s gifts to the Church. Through the sacraments we can become more like Jesus. (Y. 173, C. 321)
- Matrimony is one of the sacraments that is a special mission in the Church. It works to build up the people of God. (Y.248, C. 338) By showing love for one another and the creation of family, it shows a “pouring out” of God’s love into our world.

Discussion Points:
- Discuss with your children how your family celebrates different days/events with each other. Invite the children to name these celebrations. For example: birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries, etc.
- Share with children that in our Church family, we have seven special celebrations given to us by Jesus. We call these celebrations “sacraments”. These sacraments celebrate God’s love. We need the sacraments to help us become more like Jesus.
- Explain that God is with us especially through the sacraments. This is the gift Jesus gave to the Church (us).
- Activate prior knowledge of children by asking what they know about the sacrament of Matrimony, or marriage. Discuss people they know who have received the sacrament. Share your wedding story with your children.
- Remind children that Jesus gave us the sacrament of Matrimony. Man and woman were made for each other so that they might be “no longer two but one” (Matthew 19:6) This love they have for each other is an example of the love God has for us, his children.
- Tell children that the Sacrament of marriage occurs when a man and a woman make a lifelong promise to each other to love and honor each other forever.

Additional Resources/Activities:
- Share your wedding video with your children. Discuss the vows that you and your spouse made with each other.
- Do an imagination picture walk. Ask children to close their eyes and imagine they are attending a wedding. What do they see? What does it look like? Where is God at this
wedding in His house? Ask the children to draw a picture of a man and a woman making promises to each other in God’s house and with God looking over them.

- Pick a favorite Bible story about a married couple and connect to discussion. Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Mary and Joseph, etc.
- Coloring page: www.roman-catholic-catechism.com
- Children may appreciate reading the marriage ceremony, the traditional wedding vows and the wedding blessing with you. This can be found here: www.catholicweddinghelp.com
- Online resources: CatholicMom.com; catholicblogger1.blogspot.com, faithfirst.com, loyolapress.com/marriage-promises
- www.bustedhalo.com is an online magazine geared toward young adults. Videos on all the sacraments are available for viewing.
Marriage: Lesson Plan #2

Objectives:

The children will understand:

- The sacrament of Matrimony is a sacrament where a baptized man and woman make a promise before God and the Church to love one another and become a sign of God Himself, who is all love. (C. 343,344,346; Y 261)
- God confirms the promise made by the man and woman Himself. Therefore the bond formed in marriage is forever (until death). (Y.261; C. 343,344,346)
- For a Christian, sacramental marriage it is necessary that both man and woman are baptized and desiring to enter into a lifelong marriage willingly with an openness for children. (Y. 262; C. 338, 344)

Discussion Points:

- Review previous objectives with children. Ask children to summarize, tell main points of first lesson.
- Discuss the are necessary elements for a valid Catholic marriage. Explain that the vows (promises) of marriage are made between a man and a woman who have been baptized and know that they are making a promise for life with God's blessing.
- Ask children if they can guess what kind of gift they receive from God when they married. Explain that God gives many married couples the gift of children. Children are a gift of love and it is the parents responsibility to teach the children about God and His powerful love.
- Talk about all the love you share as a family. Relate it to Baptism and being a part of God’s family. Your family is a sign of God's great love and shows how we are part of God's family.

Additional Resources/ Activities:

- LoyolaPress.com/sacrament-of-matrimony
- FaithFirst.com
- Amazingcatechists.com/Matrimony (good article)
- Sharing wedding videos, pictures
- Ask family members to share their wedding stories
- Add pictures of your wedding or other family members’ weddings to your prayer table.
- Include married couples close to your family in your daily prayers as a family.
- Previously listed resources
Matrimony: Lesson Plan #3

Objectives:

Children will understand:

- How marriage is celebrated in the Church. This includes: weddings must take place publicly (in the presence of a priest and the Church family), rings are blessed by priest/deacon, vows/promises are made mutually, celebrant administers blessing (Y. 266, C. 343)
- Men and women are created in the image of God. This means that we have great worth. We also know God is love. Therefore, we were made to love each other. (Y. 271, C. 350)
- A family is an example of God’s “Church in miniature”. It is an image of God’s love. (Y. 271, C. 350)

Discussion points:

- Review previous lessons with children. Have children discuss previous points/objectives. You may want to create a word web or list of important words associated with the sacrament of marriage.
- Reminisce with children what you remember about your/family members’ wedding day. Discuss your vows. Who was at the church? Who helped celebrate? What special things do people do to celebrate? Show children wedding rings, white dresses, etc.
- Discuss the phrase “we are made in the image of God”. Talk about how we are all different and the one way we are all the same: We are all children of God. As children of God, it is our job to love one another. Ask children to give examples of how we show our love for one another.
- Point out/stress that people who choose to marry, choose to love one another in a special way for the rest of their lives. Share how you and your spouse show this love for each other in your daily life. For example, helping each other, praying together, doing kind things for each other, having a family together!
- Connect your family and their love for each other to God’s family, the Church. Draw out the similarities and reinforce how much God loves us.

Additional Resources/Activities:

- Marriage and the Holy Trinity (www.catholicinspired.com)
- Have children draw two interlocking wedding rings. Write the wedding blessing between the rings.
- Rewatch wedding video, pointing out vows, rings, blessing by priest, etc.
- Use readings typically read at weddings to make connections to sacrament of marriage.
- Have children interview grandparents or other family members about their wedding.
- Make a list of objectives/reminders of how your family can show love for each other and members of their Church family.