

SESSION  
12

# The Wedding at Cana



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.







# Male and Female He Created Them

**Read about the creation of the first man and woman in the first marriage. Then, answer the questions and complete the chart.**

Genesis 1 tells us that God created human beings in His image and likeness as male and female. He commanded the first man and woman (Adam and Eve, though not yet named) to be fertile and multiply and fill the earth. Genesis 1 reveals that an essential part of being made in God's image is our maleness and femaleness and the unity of the sexes.

Genesis 2 takes a deeper look at this unity. God told Adam it was not good that he was alone, and that He would make a helper for Adam. God brought all the animals to Adam for him to name and find a companion. Of course, while human beings share certain characteristics with the animals, none are like us, made in God's image. Adam recognized that he was unique out of all creation. Upon this realization, God created woman from Adam's side, revealing that man and woman are equal in dignity and close to one another's hearts, rather than the false notion that woman is somehow less than man.

When Adam met his wife for the first time, she inspired him to speak in poetic verse, bringing forth the best of man in recognition of the beauty before him:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
This one shall be called 'woman,'  
for out of man this one has  
been taken.

Adam proclaimed that at last there was one like him, a person unique out of all creation who shares his same dignity and vocation to love and holiness.

Thus, in marriage, man and woman become "one body," united together to fulfill God's command to fruitfulness. These are the dual purposes of marriage:

- the union and good of the spouses (the unitive purpose) is oriented toward ...
- the primary purpose of the procreation and raising of children (the procreative purpose).

Anything that prevents or diminishes these purposes is contrary to God's plan for marriage. Oriented as it is towards the procreation of children, marriage is an integral part of what it means to be human.

The union of Adam and Eve is the primordial, or original and fundamental, sacrament. It is a visible sign of invisible spiritual truth, specifically, God's love. Thus, the love between a husband and wife in marriage reflects the love of God. God's love for us has four parts:

- **God's love is a free gift to us.** We cannot earn or lose God's love. It is always freely offered to us without condition.
- **God's love is total and self-giving.** God gives Himself to us completely. He loves us so much that He assumed a human nature and gave His life for us on the Cross.



*Trinity Stained Glass, Song Vinh Church, Vietnam*

- **God’s love is faithful.** God will never withdraw His love from us. Even when we are unfaithful to Him when we sin, He remains near to us and showers us with His grace.
- **God’s love is fruitful.** God created all things – including each of us – out of love and holds all things in existence because He loves us.

The love shared between a husband and wife reflects God’s love. Scripture tells us “Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8). The opposite of this statement is true as well: “Whoever knows love knows God for God is love.”

1. Summarize in your own words the unitive purpose of marriage.

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2. Summarize in your own words the procreative purpose of marriage.

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Now, fill in the first row of the chart with examples from Scripture of how God's love is free, total and self-giving, faithful, and fruitful. Then, fill in the second row of the chart with examples of how the love shared between a husband and wife in marriage reflects each of these characteristics of God's love.

| <i>God's Love</i> |                       |          |          |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Free              | Total and Self-Giving | Faithful | Fruitful |
|                   |                       |          |          |

| <i>Marriage</i> |                       |          |          |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Free            | Total and Self-Giving | Faithful | Fruitful |
|                 |                       |          |          |



# Purposes of Marriage

Have a family discussion with your parents about what you learned from today's session.

**1**

*Tell* your parents about why Jesus chose to reveal Himself as the Messiah for the first time at the wedding at Cana.

**2**

*Explain* to your parents about the dual purposes of marriage.

**3**

*Discuss* with your parents examples of how God's love and marriage are free, faithful, total self-giving, and fruitful.

In the space below, write down any questions your parents had, and/or any new insights you gained from your family discussion.

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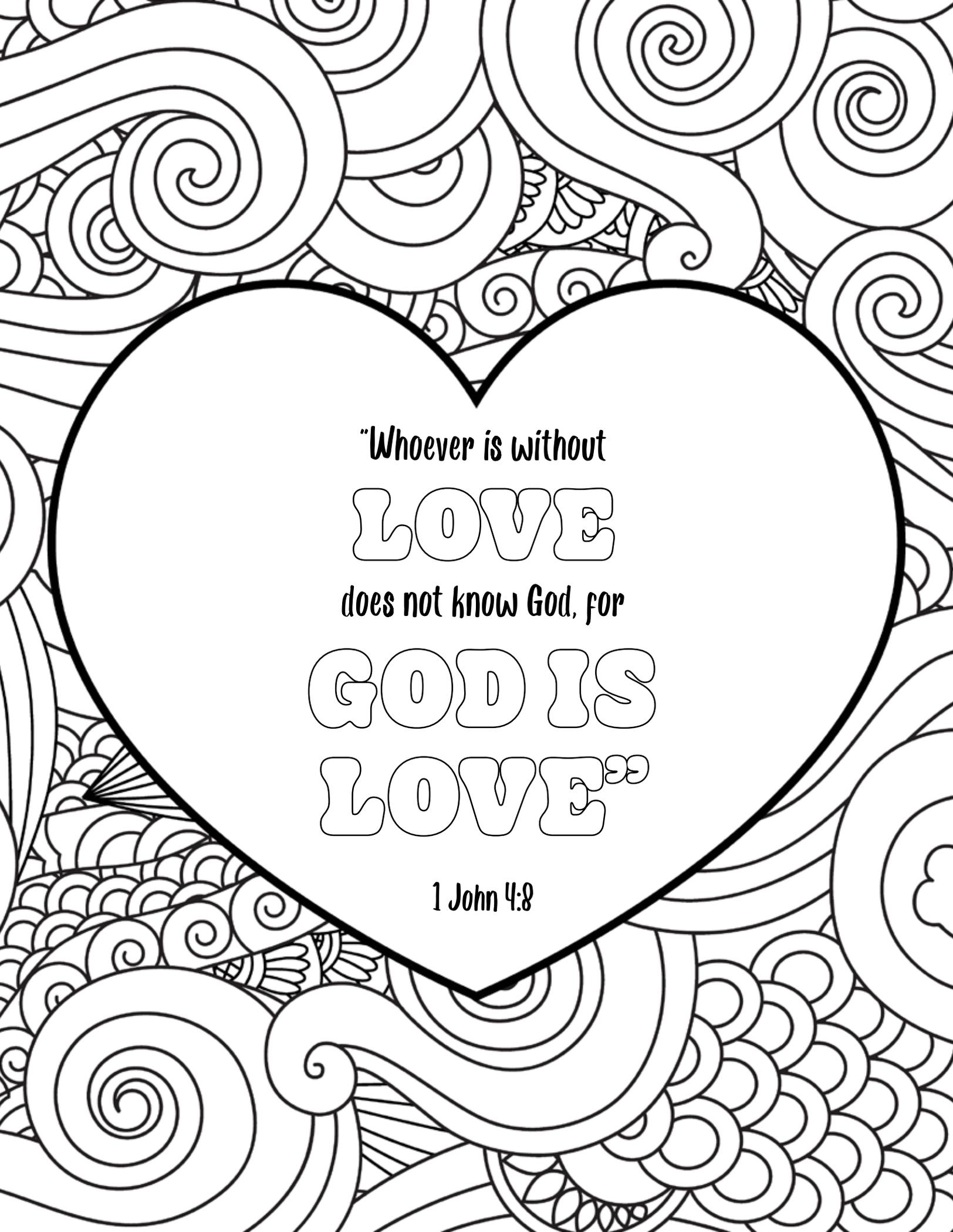
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*"Whoever is without*

**LOVE**

*does not know God, for*

**GOD IS**

**LOVE"**

**1 John 4:8**