

SESSION

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The Wedding at Cana

Catechist Overview

God made humanity in His image male and female. From the beginning, humanity was united in marriage as a sign of God Himself and His love for us. **The love shared between spouses reflects the love of God because it is free, total, faithful, and fruitful.**

Students will explore the four characteristics of married love. Parents will then have the opportunity to watch a video on how marriage is a sign of the Blessed Trinity.

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Materials

- **Listen and Respond:** The Wedding at Cana
- **Make It Your Own:** Free, Total, Faithful, and Fruitful
- **Bring It Home:** Sophia Sketchpad Marriage
- *Optional:* Marriage Sophia Sketchpad Video available at SophiaSketchPad.org

Opening



Prayer

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.

To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley
of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen.

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Note: Marriage can be a sensitive topic to discuss. Many students today come from different family situations that may include divorce and remarriage or single parents. It is important to be compassionate to these situations and affirm the goodness that God can bring forth from them. However, this does not minimize God's original plan for humanity and marital love, which Jesus seeks to restore in our hearts. The more we understand about God's plan for marriage, the better we are able to respond charitably to any students who may have concerns.



A. Ask your students, by a show of hands, who has been to a wedding before. What happens at a wedding? Then, ask your students to brainstorm as many important parts of a wedding as they can think of and keep a list on the board if possible. *Answers might include a bride and groom, a white dress, a veil, a priest, flowers, flower girls and ring bearers, the Wedding March or other wedding music, tuxedos, the best man and maid of honor, etc. If students say that two people of the same sex can get married, you can respond kindly but firmly that only a man and a woman who are free to marry can get married. Today you are learning about the Sacrament of Marriage, which is God's plan for marriage as it truly is.*

B. Now ask if anyone can guess what Jesus' first public miracle was and where it took place. When Jesus decided it was time to start letting people know who He was and what He was there to do, where was He? *At a wedding!*



Heart of the Lesson: Explain that marriage is an important sacrament in the life of the Church, but it has its roots in the very beginning of the history of humanity. The first man and woman were the first husband and wife, Adam and Eve. Marriage is a covenant that has existed since God made it when He created Adam and Eve. Marriage existed after the fall because it is in our natures. When Jesus came He made it also a sacrament. Now that Jesus has redeemed us and made marriage a sacrament, marriage too reflects God's Divine nature.

C. If you did not show it already in Session 3, you may wish to, show the 6-minute video on marriage available at SophiaSketchPad.org.



The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. ★ When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ★ [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." ★

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. ★ After this, he and his mother, [his] brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there only a few days.



The Wedding at Cana

As your teacher reads the Scripture again,
answer the questions below together.

1 What took place on the third day and who was there?

2 What concern did Mary take to Jesus?

3 What miracle did Jesus perform?

4 Why did Jesus perform this miracle and what started to happen after He did?



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D. Then let students know you will read from the Gospel when Jesus made marriage a sacrament. Read aloud from **Listen and Respond: The Wedding at Cana** while students follow along.



Respond

Read the passage aloud a second time, this time pausing where noted to check for understanding.

1 A wedding in Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus, Mary, and Jesus and His disciples were there.

2 They had run out of wine.

3 He turned water into wine.

4 He performed this as the beginning of his signs and began to reveal His glory. As a result his disciples began to believe in Him.

Notes



A. Explain that with this miracle, Jesus elevated the most fundamental human institution to a sacrament. Marriage is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman. It is a permanent family bond. In many ways, marriage is like the Trinity. It is a communion of persons, just like the Trinity. It is an exchange of life-giving love. A husband loves his wife and gives his entire self to her in marriage. She in turn receives his love and returns it as a gift of her entire self to him. Their love, in the normal course of things, is fruitful, and, in the cooperation of God's creative power, produces life. Thus, the family is the primary and essential cell of society. The union of spouses was ordained by God from the beginning to be an icon of the Trinity, a sign of His very life. The Sacrament of Marriage is meant to be an image of the Trinity and called to be a reflection of God's love.

B. Have students turn to **Make It Your Own: Free, Total, Faithful, and Fruitful**. Arrange the students into pairs and have them read through the handout and answer the questions that follow.



Free, Total, Faithful, and Fruitful

Read about marriage, and then complete the chart.

Marriage is a covenant that has existed since God made it when He created Adam and Eve.

When Jesus came, He made marriage also a sacrament. Now that Jesus has redeemed us and made marriage a sacrament, marriage between a baptized man and woman also reflects God's Divine nature.

God's love for us has four components, or parts: it is free, total, faithful, and fruitful.

God's love is a **free** gift to us. We do nothing to earn His love, and, though we can freely choose to reject Him, there is nothing we can do to lose His love.

God's love is **total** and self-giving. God gives all of Himself to us. He holds nothing back. He loved us so much that the Son of God assumed a human nature in the Person of Jesus Christ, and gave all that He had, His very life, for us on the Cross.

God's love is **faithful**. God does not take away His love from us at any time for any reason. Even though we are less than faithful to Him when we sin, He remains near to us. Like the father of the prodigal son, He rejoices when we repent of our sins and return to Him in the Sacrament of Penance.

God's love is **fruitful**. God is the Creator of all things and He holds all things in continued existence solely because He loves us. He is love itself. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son. With them, He is one and equal.



These four components define God's love. The love of a husband and wife in marriage is a reflection of how God loves. In your own words, define each of the components of God's love, and the love of husband and wife.

FREE	TOTAL
FAITHFUL	FRUITFUL

C. Emphasize that love in marriage is meant to be free: meaning you choose it freely. It is meant to be total: meaning you give your entire self to your spouse and hold nothing back. It is meant to be faithful: meaning it is a commitment to only that one person. You do not treat anyone who is not your spouse as if they are. It is meant to be fruitful: meaning it is meant to produce life.

D. Encourage students to complete the worksheet at home using the internet to look up the rite of marriage and fill in the blanks. If possible, their parents could say their vows to each other as a demonstration. Students can return their work on the sheet to you next session.

E. If time allows, close by praying a decade of the Rosary and meditating on the second luminous mystery, the Wedding Feast at Cana.

Notes



A. If possible, invite the parents to pick up their children in your classroom. Before you close the session, begin a discussion with your students. Ask for a volunteer student to explain what happens in the Gospel story of the Wedding at Cana. Ask four volunteers to each explain one characteristic of married love.

B. Explain to your students the take-home activity. They should watch the Sophia Sketchpad video, read the brief reflection, and discuss the question on **Bring It Home: Sophia Sketchpad Marriage**. They should also color in the picture for marriage on The **Seven Sacraments** from Session 2.

C. Close with a Glory Be, or offer a prayer for the students and their families. You could ask for any special intentions they might have this week, and pray for them out loud, asking them to respond with a simple "Lord, hear our prayer."

Sophia Sketchpad Marriage

Together, watch the 6-minute video on marriage at SophiaSketchPad.org and read the reflection below. Then discuss the question: **How is marriage a sign of the Blessed Trinity?**



Marriage is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman. This essential mystery of our Christian faith is made manifest in the union of man and woman in marriage. A husband loves his wife and gives his entire self to her in marriage. She in turn receives his love and returns it as a gift of her entire self to him. Their love, in the normal course of things, is fruitful, and, in the cooperation of God's creative power, produces life. Thus, the family is the primary and essential cell of society. The union of spouses was ordained by God from the beginning to be a sign of Christ's love for His Church, and an icon of the Trinity, a sign of His very life.

Talk About It!

How did the video help you understand that marriage is a sign of the Blessed Trinity?



Prepare for the Next Session

- Read over the session plan.
- You will need lined paper, construction paper, or blank paper, colored pencils and/or markers, and eight pieces of poster board or butcher paper.