

TOPIC: GROUP DISCUSSION- MARRIAGE

Objective: To help the students to understand that marriage is a commitment that is more involved than simply "being in love".

Materials: Paper and pencils

A. Group Activity: Teacher organize class into working groups and give each paper and pencils.

1. Have each group design the outline of a questionnaire to be used by people who intend to get married.

Things to keep in mind: important factors to be considered before getting married; what should couples discuss about their marriage and in how much detail; are there things that should NOT be discussed; what about the wedding ceremony itself; what should couples know about each other before making this commitment....

2. Share the Questionnaire Outlines - what are some common factors?
Is it a good idea to take a questionnaire of this sort before getting married? Why or why not?

(GOOD IDEA!!! GET A PRIEST TO COME INTO YOUR CLASS, HAVE HIM EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENS IN PRE-CANA)

B. Questions for Group Discussion:

1. If you were a marriage counselor, what would be the most important thing you would want to tell a newly-married couple asking you for general advice? Why?
2. Do you think the law should make it harder to get married and easier to get divorced, as some believe should be the case? Why?
3. What do you think would be the most difficult adjustment for YOU to make in marriage and why?
4. How have your ideas regarding marriage changed over the years up to now? Why?
5. How do you see children as fitting into a marriage relationship? Do you think all married couples should be open to the possibility of children? Do you think a married couple have a duty to "stay together for the sake of the kids" when they otherwise would not? Explain.
6. What do you think about "trial marriages" or living together before marriage? Do you think it is valuable or necessary? Why or why not?
7. What things bother you the most about the marriage relationships you have observed and why?
8. When, if ever, do you think a married couple should consider separating? Getting a divorce? Have you known any couple who are divorced? If so, what were the major issues involved and problems which resulted?

TEACHER OPTION: Set up a panel with married couples, engaged couples, single people, clergy, etc. encourage student questions among guests.