

TOPIC: LOVE, COMMITMENT, AND MARRIAGE

Objective: To begin to explore the topic of marriage by introducing the concepts of loving relationships and commitment.

Materials: Index cards, pencils, blackboard.

1.A. Teacher hands out index cards and pencils, and has the students fill in "*A LOVING RELATIONSHIP IS...*"

B. Teacher reads cards aloud.

C. Have class come up with a general definition using individual ideas, write definition on the board.

D. Teacher asks students to think about who they consider to be their primary loving relationship.

2. Discussion Questions: i. What qualities do you believe to be
(CAN BE LISTED ON BOARD) most helpful to the growth of love
in this relationship?

Examples: communication, romance, patience, acceptance, dependability, sense of humor, affection, compassion, forgiveness, honesty, freedom...

ii. What qualities do you believe are most destructive to a loving relationship?

Examples: lack of communication, selfishness, inability to forgive, lack of respect, dishonesty, jealousy, lack of trust, apathy, perfectionism, inflexibility, lack of understanding...

3.A. What are some things/people you are committed to?

B. What is a commitment?

4.A. How does someone know he/she is ready for a commitment?

B. How does someone know he/she is ready for a commitment to another person?

5. **BRAINSTORM:** Reasons why people get married

Examples: Love each other, want to always be together;

Want to raise children

Need stability in life

"Have to" girl is pregnant

Want to feel grown up

Fear of loneliness

Thoughts that marriage will "change" partner etc.....

6. Why do couples choose to get married in the church?

7. How important is it to YOU to marry in the church?

8. What is meant by the sacrament of marriage?

Marriage is the sacrament that unites a man and woman in God within the Christian Community. They help each other to live as God desires, to bring up their children, and to show by their shared life that God's love is faithful and fruitful.*

Reading: *Matthew 19: 4-6*

'Haven't you read in the sacred writing that in the Beginning the Creator made people both male and female? Then he declared: For this very reason a man shall leave his father and mother and devote himself entirely to his wife. The two of them will become one single being. In this way, they are no longer two separate people, only one. Well, then, what God has so unified, let no-one separate.'