



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

GOD'S SAVING LOVE FOR US: LITURGY AND THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

TOPIC: THE SACRAMENTS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND MISSION: MATRIMONY

Goal(s):

- Families will continue to learn about the second Sacrament at the Service of Communion and Mission: Marriage
- Families will share their plans for celebrating the Easter Season.
- Families will read and reflect on Jesus at the Wedding at Cana.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for Lectio Divina
- Sacrament of Matrimony and Wedding of Cana [coloring pages](#) to be used any time during session
 - Crayons or colored pencils

BACKGROUND RESOURCES FOR CATECHISTS

God's Help for Our Marriages: [Transforming Water to Wine](#)

[Sacrament of Matrimony](#) (3 min)

(With so much confusion around the Sacrament of Marriage and the meaning of marriage in today's culture, this short video is recommended for preparing for the lesson, or for sharing with the families if needed or appropriate.)

[The Meaning of Marriage](#): More information on the unique meaning of marriage as the permanent, faithful, and fruitful union of one man and one woman is available at this website from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Love means more. | What is love? At <https://lovemeansmore.org/> (formerly Marriage: Unique for a Reason)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.
Amen.

ICE BREAKER

I Am Blessed!

1. Start with one volunteer. Ask him/her to name a reason why he or she is blessed.
2. Continue around the small family group or around the large group if there is time.
3. The only guideline is that each person should try to think of a new and different blessing.

Adapted from [disciple.org](#)



CONTENT

Hook: Ask families to share their *Celebrating the Easter Season Plans*.
(Large Group)

Main Concept: The Sacraments of Service and Mission are the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony (Marriage). Marriage is a vocation, or a calling from God.

Watch: [Sophia Sketchpad: Marriage](#) (6 min) – this video presents marriage in the light of God’s plan and the true meaning of love as an act of the will.

FAMILY SHARING

Families take turns showing their Sacrament of Marriage sacramentals, favorite keepsakes or photos from their own wedding, or of a couple who are a witness to the holiness of marriage, and explain why it is special to them.

LECTIO DIVINA

Ask all the family members to find a comfortable place to sit together as a small group.

Explain: It was not an accident that it was at the Wedding at Cana that Jesus did His first public miracle. The Trinity is the giver of grace for every Christian marriage, and this grace comes through Christ’s Cross, “the source of all Christian life” (CCC, no. 1615). The Lord knows how much we all need Him, and He wants to be sought, invited and a part of all of our relationships so He can give us His grace and His love, which in turn strengthens us to love one another better!

I am going to ask you to quietly relax as I say a prayer and then continue to read the story of the Wedding at Cana to you from Sacred Scripture. When I have finished reading, we will sit in silence for a minute and think about what God is saying to us through this story.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, as we read and think about the story of your life, we ask the Holy Spirit to come and speak to the hearts of all here, from the oldest to the youngest.

Calmly Read [John 2:1-11](#)

(As time allows, consider reading a second time, slowly.)

Wait at least 30 seconds in silence.



Explain: Now I am inviting each member of your family to share privately (within your family) about what stood out to him/her.

Share Guidelines:

- a. Respectfully listening to each family member as he/she is sharing his/her reflection is very important.
- b. Avoid interrupting or even correcting what another is saying (we're looking to listen, not critique).
- c. When each family member has had an opportunity to share, please wait quietly for the other families to finish to while we wait for the other families to finish. Give families time to share privately.

Read the excerpts below adapted from [God's Help for Our Marriages: Transforming Water to Wine](#)

“We may never know [for sure] why John included this story (in his Gospel), but it’s a good thing he did. For centuries, people have turned to it for encouragement and inspiration, especially when it comes to the Sacrament of Marriage. For this miracle tells us that when we invite Jesus into our marriage, just as Jesus was invited to the wedding at Cana, he takes what is already good—the “water” of our love for each other and our desire to treat each other well—and transforms it into the choice “wine” of his own divine grace and power.”

So why does it seem like the grace is not working in some marriages and families that have been wounded by divorce?

Amazing Potential. Like all the other sacraments, the Sacrament of Marriage has power only to the degree that married couples embrace and try to live out the grace available to them through the sacrament. It’s a grace that is released as the couple welcomes Jesus into their marriage in ways both big and small, in their overall philosophy of marriage and in the specific ways they make Jesus a part of their relationship.

Every marriage will eventually face some kind of tension that may push the couple to fight, to isolate themselves from each other, or to fall into selfishness or resentment. When these situations arise, those couples who have been taking hold of the grace of the sacrament stand a much better chance of weathering the storm together. Their love for each other will supersede the tension. They will be more able to forgive. They will hold each other in respect and honor, and their marriage will even be strengthened.”

A Sacramental Seal. Just as Jesus came to the wedding at Cana, he comes to every wedding where he is invited. And he remains for the whole marriage when a couple continues to welcome him into their home. He takes their natural human love, which is good, and transforms it into supernatural, divinely graced love. He makes sure that their love, which on its own has the potential to run dry, remains vibrant and life-giving. Through the sacrament, he offers his seal on their marriage so that they can learn how to love each other with the same love that he has for his church. And that love, like the choice wine at Cana, is the best there is!”

PRAY

Dear Father,

You live in eternity with the Son and the Holy Spirit in oneness of life and communion of love; grant that all married couples will be mindful of the covenant of love they entered into with You through the Sacrament of Marriage.

Send Your Holy Spirit to heal the wounds that have driven families apart. Pour your grace of reconciliation to mend broken hearts and restore love. Give us renewed understanding and compassion for one another.

Glory be... Amen.

REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

