

GOD GIVES MARRIAGE

STORY: CREATION / YEAR: FAMILY

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES MARRIAGE

Genesis 2:18-23; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:3-6; Mark 10:6-12; Ephesians 5:28-33

BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

BIG IDEAS

- Marriage is a good gift from God, not an invention of man.
- Marriage is a gift of companionship.
- Marriage exists for worship of God.
- Marriage is a means of advancing the mission of God.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 2:15-25

Everything is from God because He is the beginning of all things. Marriage is God’s plan and invention. From the very beginning, He created man and woman and put them together to form a marriage and a family. Marriage is a reflection of God and is part of His great plan for His creation.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God created the family



Every child should feel:

- Thankful for the gift of family that God has given them



Every child should:

- Practice serving the members of their family



Every child should want:

- To honor and respect their family

FAMILY DEVOTION: MARRIAGE IS FROM GOD

God gives good and perfect gifts. He gave marriage to mankind as a gift. Marriage is from God. It is His invention and it is a gift from Him.



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BIBLE VERSE: GENESIS 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

God created man and woman to be united as one.

- God created the first man and woman to be united together.
- He made Adam first and then created Eve as a helper for Adam.
- God placed them both together purposefully as part of His design and plan for mankind.
- When God created them, He intended for them to be joined together as one unit, or as a family.
- His joining of them together was the very first marriage.
- Marriage came from God and is His idea.

When man and woman unite, they bring God glory.

- Marriage is from God and reflects His glory to the world.
- When a man and woman come together as a couple and live as a family, they show the world how powerful God is in joining two different people together.
- Marriage brings God glory when it shows how His power unites people together as one.
- God’s plan was to be glorified through the marriage of one man to one woman.
- When a man and woman join their lives together and live for God, it brings God glory by showing the world how God works inside of people.

Man and woman unite to create a family.

- God’s purpose for bringing man and woman together was to create a family.
- When a man joins himself to a woman and they become husband and wife, they become a new family.
- They each leave their mothers and fathers and start their own family with one another.
- This joining together of a man and woman to create a family brings God great glory.
- It is His design and purpose for mankind to live in families and it is His design that families are created through the marriage of a man and woman.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 2:15-25

God Creates The First Marriage

Opening Illustration:

Before class, write the words “marriage”, “life”, “people”, “glory”, and “God” on index cards. Place the cards inside of small boxes and wrap the boxes with gift wrap. (You can use gift bags as well.) Show the gifts to the class. Ask them to take turns trying to guess what it is inside of each box. Next, open each box or bag and ask a child to read what is written on the card. Once all the gifts are open, talk with the children about how every good gift is from God. He gives us life, marriage, families, and everything else for His glory.

BIG IDEA: MARRIAGE IS A GOOD GIFT FROM GOD, NOT AN INVENTION OF MAN.¹

What are some inventions by man? (Medicines, vehicles, cell phones, etc.)

God created two genders, male and female, so that people could live in marriage relationships.

- When God created the world, He formed man from the dust of the ground.
- He called the very first man, Adam. When God made Adam, He made the first human and God created Adam with a gender.
- When God created Eve, He created her as a female because in His great design He intended for Adam and Eve, and every male and female after them, to compliment one another.
- God did not make one gender or more than two genders. He made only male and female and He did so because it was His plan and purpose for them to be joined together in marriage.

God designed man and woman to need one another.

- When God made Adam, He made Adam to need a helper.
- God provided Adam with the helper he needed when He created Eve, the first woman.
- God designed people to need one another and He created man and woman to need each other.
- It was always God's idea and design for man and woman to need one another and for them to come together to create a marriage.
- God knew that Adam would need Eve in order to be complete. God created male and female so that they could join perfectly together in marriage and bring God glory.

Marriage is given as a picture of Jesus' relationship with the church.

- Marriage does fulfill a need that man and woman have.
- It is not just for man's and woman's need to be fulfilled. It is a picture of how Jesus interacts with the church.
- Jesus loves the church and takes care of the church like a husband is supposed to love and take care of his wife.
- Jesus sacrificed for the church and is faithful to the church like a man and wife are to sacrifice for one another and remain faithful to one another.



Divide the children into pairs or small groups. Give each group a marker and a blank piece of paper. As a class, make a list of some modern inventions, such as cell phones, televisions, computers, etc. Next, ask the groups to draw a picture of their favorite inventions. Allow the groups to share and then talk with them about the difference between man's inventions and the things that God has given us, such as marriage, families, etc.

1. Matthew 19:4-6: God created male and female so that they could join together perfectly to create a marriage.

STORY: CREATION
GOD GIVES MARRIAGE**BIG IDEA: MARRIAGE IS A GIFT OF COMPANIONSHIP.²****Marriage is a good gift.**

- God is the giver of good things because everything that He does is perfect and good.
- God made Adam and then gave him a helper when He created Eve.
- When God created Eve and gave her to Adam as his wife, He established a covenant between them.
- God designed marriage as a good gift to men and women.
- It is a sweet gift from God to have a husband or wife to walk through life with.



Gather the children in a circle and play a game of musical chairs. When a child is left without a chair, ask him or her to share one thing that makes having a friend special. Talk with the children about how a marriage relationship is even more special because it reflects God's favor.

Marriage is a gift of a covenant relationship.

- Marriage is not like other relationships. It is a special relationship designed to reflect the covenant relationship Jesus has with the church.
- It is special and is designed to provide a faithful and committed relationship between a man and woman.
- It is a special gift from God and shows His great love for His people and His desire to provide His people with all that they need.
- A covenant relationship means that two people agree to remain faithful to one another and committed to one another for all of their lives.
- This relationship provides a lasting relationship and companionship for a man and woman.

Marriage shows God's favor to man and woman.

- God is the great Creator of all things. Everything comes from Him and He could have chosen a different way for people to live together.
- He chose for people to live in marriage relationships with one another as part of His great purpose for mankind.
- His design for mankind shows His favor on him.
- Living in a covenant relationship as husband and wife is a wonderful thing and it has the potential to bring great joy to both the man and woman.
- When two people find each other, marry, and live together as God designed, it is a reflection of His favor upon them.

2. Proverbs 18:22: *When a man finds a good wife, it is a reflection of God's favor upon his life. Marriage is God's great, favorable plan for man and woman.*

BIG IDEA: MARRIAGE EXISTS FOR WORSHIP OF GOD.³

What does it mean to worship God? (It means to praise God for who He is, what He does and for His glory.)

Marriage is for God's glory.

- Everything we do is for the glory of God.⁴
- God created each of us to bring Him glory and to enjoy Him.
- God gives us things for His glory.
- When God created the first marriage, it was for His glory.
- Marriage is meant to bring God glory and it can when the husband and wife seek to please God first.

Marriage can produce Godly love between a husband and wife.

- Every person is commanded to love one another with a Godly love.
- Marriage is a great way to show Godly love toward one another.
- A husband and wife have the opportunity to love one another like Christ loves the church.
- When a husband and wife show Godly love, they bring glory to God and show Him worship.

Marriage is a picture of Christ and the church.

- Marriage is a reflection of Christ and the church.
- When two people join their lives together and become one, they commit to love one another faithfully forever.
- This is a picture of how Christ loves His church.
- When a man and woman love each other according to God's Word, they bring Him glory and their lives worship Him.



Gather the children in a circle and ask them to hold hands. Next, tell the children that you are going to give them a series of commands and they should do what you say while continuing to hold hands. Tell them to try very hard not to stop holding hands. Give them commands like run in place, sit down and stand up, etc. Once you play several times, talk with them about how marriage brings God worship when a husband and wife love each other faithfully like Christ loves the church.

3. Hebrews 13:1-4: Marriages can worship God when they exhibit a Godly love. Marriages show a Godly love when they sacrifice for one another and show love to one another.

4. 1 Corinthians 10:31: Everything that we do should be one for the glory of God. Our marriages should be lived to bring God glory and worship Him.

STORY: CREATION
GOD GIVES MARRIAGE**BIG IDEA: MARRIAGE IS A MEANS OF ADVANCING THE MISSION OF GOD.⁵****A Godly marriage reflects God's character to the world.**

- God designed marriage to be a picture of the way He loves His people.
- God determined the way that marriage would be defined. He chose a man and woman to be husband and wife.
- God's design is a reflection of His own love for His people.
- When a husband and wife love one another and live with one another the way that God designed, the world can see God in their marriage.



Help the children brainstorm ways to be good helpers to their families and friends. Write their ideas on a piece of poster board or on the board. Remind the children that Godly marriages can reflect God to the world.

A Godly marriage reflects God's everlasting love.

- God's love is never-ending. He will never stop loving because His love is everlasting.
- God's love is unconditional. He loves His people no matter what.
- When a husband and wife love one another as God loves, they reflect God's love.
- They love unconditionally and faithfully. This type of love shows the world around them God's character and it helps others see the truth about God.
- It is not natural for a person to love someone else sacrificially, so when a husband and wife love one another in this way, the world sees God.

A Godly marriage reflects the Gospel to the world.

- God's design for marriage is for the husband and wife to become more like Him.
- When a husband and wife live together as God commands, they become more like Him.
- They sacrifice for one another and encourage one another to be more like God.
- This is a picture of Christ and how He sacrificed Himself for the church.

5. Ephesians 5:22-33: *Marriage is intended to be a reflection of Christ and His church. It is a great mystery, but an opportunity for a man and woman to show Christ to the world through their marriage relationship.*

HOOKS

**Mirror, Mirror**

Gather together aluminum foil sheets, craft sticks, glue and decorative stickers. Help the children create a frame by gluing four of the craft sticks together. Next, attach a piece of aluminum foil to the back of the craft sticks. Allow the children to decorate their “mirrors” using the decorative stickers. Once the children finish, talk with them about how marriage is a reflection of Christ and the church.

**Hula Hoop Shuffle**

Bring in several different colored hula hoops. Inside of the hula hoops, place pieces of paper with different descriptions of what marriage is on them, such as “A gift”, “From God”, “Companionship”, etc. Ask the children to jump from one hula hoop to another as you call out a particular color while music is playing. When the music stops, ask the children to read what is written on the card inside of their hula hoop. Once you’ve played several times, talk with the children about how marriage is a good gift from God.



- Marriage is God’s design and plan. It is not an invention of man.
- Marriage is a good gift from God and provides companionship to a husband and wife.