

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor



# Sharing God's Love

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** God of love, help us become witnesses of your great love in the world.

“Wherever you go I will go,  
wherever you lodge I will lodge.  
Your people shall be my people  
and your God, my God.” **Ruth 1:16**

**All:** God of love, help us become witnesses of your great love in the world.

## Scripture

Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator “made them male and female” and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate. **Matthew 19:4–6**

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### What Do You Wonder?

- What do Catholics believe is different, or special, about marriage?
- How will you know whom to marry?



# Together in Holiness

## How is marriage a Sacrament?

Good marriages are based on friendship. In the New Testament, marriage is an image of Christ's relationship with the Church. Jesus used wedding images in some of his parables. He also performed his first miracle at a wedding.

### Scripture

#### The Wedding at Cana

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."

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." **John 2:1-10**

➔ Why do you think Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding feast?





## Matrimony

Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana showed his appreciation for marriage. Jesus taught that marriage is from God and cannot be broken by human choices. He said, "What God has joined together, no human being must separate" (**Mark 10:9**).

Because of Jesus' teaching, the Church recognizes marriage as a Sacrament and gives it the name **Matrimony**. Marriage is a lifelong partnership of service with two purposes. It helps people grow together in holiness and love, and it creates the proper place for welcoming children and educating them in the practice of the faith. Together a family is called the **domestic Church**.

## Sacrament of Service

Matrimony is called a Sacrament at the Service of Communion. Married people share a unique covenant and have special responsibilities. A husband and wife pledge to live their lives in loving friendship and service to each other and to the community, and to be open to any children God gives them. By their mutual love and fidelity, they build up the whole community of faith and become a sign of salvation to all who witness their self-giving love.

### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** In a small group, brainstorm the qualities of a strong marriage.

**Share** Choose what you consider to be the three most important qualities of a strong marriage, and write them on slips of paper. Work with a partner and use the slips of paper to create a paper chain.

## Catholic Faith Words

**Matrimony** a Sacrament at the Service of Communion in which a baptized man and a baptized woman make a permanent covenant of love with each other and with God

**domestic Church** a name for the Catholic family, because it is the community of Christians in the home. God made the family to be the first place we learn about loving others and following Christ.







Pope Francis describes families as “...caring for one another... husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents.”

## A Domestic Church

### How is the family a domestic Church?

During Pope Saint John Paul II’s visit to the United States in 1987 he spoke about the importance of families. He said that the life of the parish greatly depends on the commitment and involvement of its families. The family is the basic unit of society and of the Church. The Pope, however, was very realistic when he said that some families are healthy and filled with the love of God, some families have little energy for the Spirit, and some families have broken down altogether.

The Church has a concern for all families, and she ministers to them in the name of Jesus. Families are so important that they are called domestic Churches. A domestic Church is a church of the home, a family community of faith, hope, and charity. New members of the Church emerge from the family and, in the family, faith in Jesus is first nourished by word and example. In his 1981 letter on the family, Pope Saint John Paul II said, “The family, called together by word and Sacrament as the Church of the home, is both teacher and mother, the same as the worldwide Church.”

➔ In what ways is a family a domestic Church?

### Catholic Faith Words

**temperance** is the Cardinal Virtue that helps us use moderation, be disciplined, and have self-control

**chastity** a moral virtue and Fruit of the Holy Spirit that helps us express sexuality in the right ways for our call in life. In religious life or Holy Orders, chastity includes being celibate.

**modesty** a moral virtue and one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit that helps us to dress, talk, and move in appropriate ways



## Sharing God's Love

The families that come from the union of marriage are meant to be living signs of faith for the Church and the world. With God's grace, husbands and wives follow Christ together in love, just as others may be called to do in Holy Orders, consecrated religious life, or a committed single life.

No matter what vocation of love and service to God and others you follow, you are required to live the virtues related to sexuality—**temperance, chastity, and modesty**—and to honor the Ninth Commandment. In doing so, purity of heart is achieved with God's grace, discipline, and prayer.

### Connect Your Faith

#### Write a Postcard

Design and write a postcard for a couple, a single person, or a religious brother or sister you know who is a sign of God's love to others. Describe the good example that he or she shows. Send the postcard to the person.





## Our Catholic Life

### How can you help promote harmony within your family?

The Letter to the Ephesians was written to a small community of faith that in many ways resembled a family. It faced challenges that many families face today. Outside pressures troubled the community. There was also anger and fighting among its members. Harmony was replaced by confusion.

The Letter to the Ephesians offered wise advice to the community in the city of Ephesus—advice that you can use to help promote harmony within your own family.

### Ways to Harmony

***“Put away falsehood; speak the truth.”***

Families that respect the truth and allow their members to be \_\_\_\_\_ are usually healthy families. Always try to speak the truth.

***Remove “all bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling.”***

Reviling is the use of abusive language. \_\_\_\_\_ and abuse tear families apart. Practice forgiveness.

***“Be kind to one another, compassionate, and forgiving.”***

There may be problems in your family, but your kindness, compassion, and \_\_\_\_\_ will go a long way toward easing these problems.

***“Live as children of light.”***

Take time to \_\_\_\_\_ for your family members. The light of Jesus and the Holy Spirit will help you bring light to the family.

***“Honor your father and mother.”***

The \_\_\_\_\_ Commandment is the first to carry a promise. The promise is “that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth.”

Based on Ephesians 4:25, 31, 32; 5:8; 6:2



Fill in the missing words to complete the explanation. If you need some help, read the passage from Ephesians in the New Testament.





# People of Faith

July 13

## Saint Henry II, 972–1024

Saint Henry is the only King of Germany to become a Saint. As a young boy, he thought he might become a priest, but instead God wanted him to become the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. He and his wife Cunegond used their position and wealth to help as many people as they could. They gave away much of their fortune to help the poor. Saint Henry traveled throughout his kingdom trying to establish peace. He and Cunegond are buried together in Bamberg Cathedral in Germany.



**Discuss:** How does your family work for justice?



Learn more about Saint Henry II at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Draw or write** ways in which marriage is a service in the circles below.







## Let Us Pray

# Prayer of Blessing



Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** God our Father, we ask your blessing on all married couples.

**Reader 1:** May the peace of Christ live always in the hearts and homes of all married couples.

**Reader 2:** May they be ready and willing to comfort all who come to them in need, and may they enjoy the blessings promised to the compassionate.

**Reader 3:** May their children bring them happiness, and may their generous love for their children be returned to them over and over again.

**Reader 4:** May they find happiness and satisfaction in their work.

**Reader 5:** May the Lord bless them with many happy years together so that they may enjoy the rewards of a good life.

**Leader:** Let us pray.  
Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ"

Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.

We are the body of Christ.

Hemos oído el llamado;

we've answered "Yes" to the call of the Lord.

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter identifies Matrimony as the Sacrament in which a baptized man and woman make a permanent covenant of love with each other and with God, and discusses the family as a domestic Church.

### Scripture



Read **Matthew 19:4–6** to find out what Jesus says about marriage.

### Catholics Believe

- Matrimony helps a man and woman grow in love and holiness and prepare a home for children.
- The Church celebrates marriage through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1612–1617, 1646–1651, 2204–2206 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint King Henry II, who used his power and wealth to help the poor of his kingdom.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Marriage** A sixth-grader's understanding of marriage is strongly related to their experience of marriage in the home. Children with single or divorced parents or children who live with couples whose marriages involve much conflict can still learn about healthy marriage. By emphasizing God's love for us and his desire for our happiness, adults can help children understand that even in our brokenness and our sinfulness, God is always urging us to love as he loves.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

Are you aware that your child is the visible sign of the invisible love between you and your spouse?

Our Catholic faith teaches that God's love made visible in your commitment to each other is now "enfleshed" in your child. Your child is a sign of your participation in God's ongoing process of giving life. As Catholics, we know that "the couple's joyful acceptance of children includes the responsibility to serve as models of Christian commitment for their children and helps them grow in wisdom and grace. In this way, the family becomes a 'domestic church'" (*USCCA, p. 286*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to describe purity of heart.
- Talk about the importance of temperance and practicing the virtues of chastity and modesty.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Henry, help all married couples live out their vocation and raise healthy, happy families. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).



# Chapter 18 Review

**A Work with Words** Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Jesus' first miracle in the Gospel according to John was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 walking on water  
 turning water into wine  
 the multiplication of loaves
2. The Sacrament that unites a baptized man and woman is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Matrimony  
 Eucharist  
 Holy Orders
3. The two purposes of marriage are to help people grow together in holiness and love and to create a place for welcoming \_\_\_\_\_.  
 strangers  
 pets  
 children
4. \_\_\_\_\_ said: "The family, called together by word and Sacrament as the Church of the home, is both teacher and mother, the same as the worldwide Church."  
 Saint Peter  
 Jesus  
 Pope Saint John Paul II
5. The basic unit of society and the Church is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 marriage  
 family  
 single life

**B Check Understanding** Circle the choice that best completes each sentence.

6. The cardinal virtue of (**temperance, modesty**) helps you use moderation, be disciplined, and have self-control.
7. To live in harmony, a family should practice living as (**children of darkness, children of light**).
8. A (**domestic, foreign**) Church is a church of the home.
9. The moral virtue of (**chastity, modesty**) leads you to dress, talk, and move in appropriate ways.
10. In Holy Orders, chastity includes being (**celibate, married**).

