

MARRIAGE

Lesson 10

Workbook Assignment

*Making the Decision
Priorities*

*The Wedding
Marriage License*

Overview

The students will examine some important guidelines for successfully choosing a life partner. The students will be asked to “marry” a partner for the duration of the marriage unit. Together they will work through critical areas that affect the marriage relationship.

Objectives

- ◆ Students will be able to identify The Seven Most Prevalent Causes of Faulty Mate Selection.
 - ◆ Students will analyze the importance of sharing similarities in interests, goals and philosophies with their intended marriage partner.
 - ◆ Students will discuss the Ten Principles for Choosing the Right Marriage Partner.
 - ◆ Students will “marry” a partner to complete the following lessons of the marriage unit.
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Vocabulary

priorities

commitment

Key Concepts

- People often enter marriage for the wrong reasons.
- The Seven Most Prevalent Causes of Faulty Mate Selection are: the decision to get married is made too quickly, the decision is made at too young an age, one or both persons are too eager to be married, one or both may be choosing a mate to please someone else, the experience base is too narrow, the couple has unrealistic expectations, one or both may have unaddressed significant personality or behavior problems.
- Marriages have a stronger foundation from the beginning when partners share many things in common.
- Ten Principles for a Great Marriage are: eliminate the seven primary causes of faulty mate selection, find a mate who is a lot like you, get yourself emotionally healthy before you get yourself married, develop a clear mental image of your “perfect” person, find a love you can feel

Cont. on next page

- One of the significant features of the marriage unit is to give students practical experience with the issues of marriage. Tell the students they will now be allowed to get “married”. They will be working with a partner for the duration of the unit. Ask the students to sit with their partners if they have selected someone from the class. The students whose partners are outside of the class can complete the first part of the assignment.

- Sharing things in common is an additional area of importance to consider when deciding whom to marry. When partners have many similarities between them it provides a stronger base for connectedness in the marriage. Assign the *Priorities* worksheet in the workbook. Students will discover how many areas they have in common with their partner. This assignment is particularly enlightening for students who have a steady dating relationship.

- Present the **Ten Principles for a Great Marriage** and allow for class discussion. Emphasize the importance of using the principles when making the decision to marry.

- *The Wedding* page may either be completed in class or may be given as homework. Some students will want to include pictures from magazines or other wedding information. Encourage the students to be creative.

- Give each “couple” a copy of the Bogus Marriage Certificate to be signed by both partners and glued in the space provided on the workbook page entitled *Marriage License*. The majority of students enjoy this project and take it seriously. Some partners give each other fake rings, flowers or other mementos of the “marriage”.

LECTURE NOTES:

The need to love and be loved is the deepest of human emotions. The majority of individuals hope to find the ultimate connection of love within the institution of marriage.

For couples who have chosen their mates wisely, marriage is a happy and satisfying experience. For others, marriage is a sad disappointment. Nearly 50% of all first marriages today end in divorce and 60% of second marriages do not survive. Dr. Warren, in his book Finding the Love of Your Life, proposes guidelines that can be useful for couples who are considering marriage. The Seven Most Prevalent Causes of Faulty Mate Selection: 1) the decision to get married is made too quickly, 2) the decision is made at too young an age, 3) one or both persons are too eager to be married, 4) one or both may be choosing a mate to please someone else, 5) the experience base is too narrow, 6) the couple has unrealistic expectations, 7) one or both may have unaddressed significant personality or behavior problems, are designed to help eliminate potential problem areas and ensure couples that they are choosing to marry for the right reasons.

Many couples who believe the saying "opposites attract" soon discover that their differences become a liability within the marriage. These kinds of marriages can be successful, but are considerably more work. Research suggests that couples who are similar in their background, personalities, and personal habits and who share common interests, goals and life philosophies, begin marriage with a stronger base. These marriages are consistently happier and experience fewer problems.

Individuals are encouraged to look for someone to marry who is a lot like themselves. Critical areas of similarity to consider are: intelligence, values, intimacy, interests, and expectations about roles. Dating couples should take the time to get to know each other well and communicate honestly about their priorities. There is a greater likelihood that partners will find themselves working together in the marriage when areas of importance share a similar position on the priorities list.

Most couples enter marriage with the hope that their marriage will be successful and long lasting. Using the Ten Principles for a Great Marriage as a checklist, couples can determine whether their marriage is beginning from a strong foundation.. The ten principles are: 1) eliminate the seven primary causes of faulty mate selection, 2) find a mate who is a lot like you, 3) get yourself emotionally healthy before you get yourself married, 4) develop a clear mental image of your "perfect person", 5) find a love you can feel deep in your heart -- and express it carefully, 6) let passionate love mature before you decide, 7) master the art of intimacy, 8) learn to clear conflict from the road to love, 9) refuse to proceed until you can genuinely pledge your lifelong commitment, 10) celebrate your marriage with the full support of your family and friends.

When the decision to marry has been made, couples often choose to have a public ceremony pledging their love and commitment to one another before friends and family. Whether the wedding is large or small, formal or casual, it should be a time of celebration and good wishes for the happy bride and groom. The students will be given the opportunity to write about the kind of wedding they would like to have someday.

Marriage is a commitment that is legally binding between two individuals. In order for the students to experience the significance of committing their life to another person, they will be asked to sign a Bogus Marriage License and place it in the workbook. They must

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Bogus Marriage Certificate

Under no authority whatsoever, this certifies that

and

have been joined in "marriage" for the duration of this project.

Date _____

HOUSEHOLD DUTIES:

Couples who are considering marriage should discuss what areas of household maintenance are important to them and how the duties will be shared between them. Communicating honestly about expectations can minimize frustration later.

1. **Who will handle the family finances?**
2. **Who will be responsible for paying the monthly bills?**
3. **Which partner will do the marketing?**
4. **Who will be responsible for meal preparation and clean-up?**
5. **How will household cleaning chores be divided?**
6. **How will laundry be managed?**
7. **Who will be responsible for maintenance of cars, yard, etc.?**
8. **Will the children participate in duties?**
9. **Who will discipline the children and how?**

PRIORITIES

How many things do you and your "mate" have in common? On separate sheets of paper, *individually* complete a list of your top ten priorities and do not discuss them until each of you is finished with your list. Then compare your lists and make the Ours list *together*, beginning with the items you have in common.

Partner One

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Partner Two

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

OURS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

WHAT IS LOVE?

Many individuals mistake imitation love for the real thing. In a relationship, how does one know the difference between genuine love and love that is false? How the love makes you feel emotionally is one of the ways to recognize the difference. Imitation forms of love leave you feeling "empty" inside after spending time with the other person. Genuine love leaves you feeling secure and content with your partner even when you are separated. True love must be experienced with the heart but understood with the head. While it sounds romantic to "fall" in love, the truth is that we *decide* who we want to love. Read the following descriptions designed to help you make one of the most important decisions of your life.

Imitation love can be:

1. **Over controlling** -- this kind of love doesn't provide for personal growth. You are not allowed to think or make decisions on your own. The partner or someone else decides what is "best" for us.
2. **Conditional love** -- love that is based on meeting a standard of performance; you have to *do* something or *be* something in order to *earn* the love.
3. **Physical Arousal** -- this is love based on excitement. As love deepens, the original intensity lessens. Some think this means the love is fading so they move on to someone else.

Genuine Love is:

1. **Nurturing** -- this love allows for personal growth, you are free to explore *all that you are* within a safe and encouraging environment.
2. **Unconditional** -- you are loved for who you are in spite of imperfections or inabilities in performance.
3. **Generous** -- less importance is placed on what you are *getting* from the relationship and more is placed on what you are *giving* to the relationship.

MAKING THE DECISION

Marriage is a fulfilling experience for those who have chosen their mate wisely. Even when all of the components for complete love are present, no one can guarantee that a marriage will last. Additional factors can influence or weaken the relationship. There is no doubt that the best marriages begin with a strong foundation. Use the following checklist as a guide to eliminate potential problems when you think you have found the person you want to marry.

THE SEVEN MOST PREVALENT CAUSES OF FAULTY MATE SELECTION:

- 1. The Decision to Get Married Is Made Too Quickly**
- 2. The Decision Is Made at Too Young an Age**
- 3. One or Both Persons Are Too Eager to Be Married**
- 4. One or Both May Be Choosing a Mate to Please Someone Else**
- 5. The Experience Base is Too Narrow**
- 6. The Couple Has Unrealistic Expectations**
- 7. One or Both May Have Unaddressed Significant Personality or Behavior Problems**

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