

## Overview

In Chapter 23 the students learned that the laity, religious, and priests are called to carry out the mission of Christ and the Church. In this chapter the students will learn that Matrimony is built on Christ's love for his Church.

### Doctrinal Content

For Adult Reading and Reflection  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The students will learn:	Paragraph
• Marriage was part of God's plan from the very beginning. . . .	1605
• The marriage covenant is built on Christ's love for the Church. . . .	1616
• In the Sacrament of Matrimony a man and woman promise to always love and be true to each other. . . .	1644
• Families are very important communities. . . .	1657



**Matrimony**  
**marriage covenant**  
**fidelity**

## Catechist Background

**W**hat is the most important promise you have ever made?

In a world filled with broken promises and divorce, why does the Church still teach that marriage is a sacrament? The answer lies deep in our roots. Throughout the Scriptures, the image of the marriage bond and covenant was a metaphor for God's love for his chosen people. The metaphor enabled the people to imagine the enduring love and trust God had in his people. The deep love between a man and a woman symbolized the depths of God's love for us.

In the New Testament and works of early Christian writers, the marriage bond was used to symbolize the love of Christ for his Church. The Church has Christ as the bridegroom who will never abandon his bride. The covenant, begun with Abraham and fulfilled in the crucified but risen Christ, remains the steadfast sign of God's faithfulness to us.

In the Sacrament of Matrimony couples pledge their fidelity. They become rooted in faith and love.

Go to [www.webelieveweb.com](http://www.webelieveweb.com), Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter's correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching
- *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living.*

They “increasingly further their own perfection and their mutual sanctification . . . and render glory to God” (*The Church in the Modern World*, 48). They are a visible and effective sign, a sacrament of God's fidelity and love for his people.

The married couple forms a new family, which may someday include the gift of children. In the heart of the family home, we first experience God and begin to journey toward our heavenly home. “Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous—even repeated—forgiveness and, above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life.” (CCC 1657) The Sacrament of Matrimony concretizes human love as an offering of praise and thanksgiving to the God who is love.

**T**hink of a couple who gives glory to God through their marriage. Pray for them.

# Lesson Planning Guide

## Lesson Steps

## Presentation

## Materials

### 1 WE GATHER

**page 203**  
 **Prayer**

 **Focus on Life**

- Listen to Scripture.
- Respond in prayer.

- Discuss faithfulness and faithful friends.

For the prayer space: a Bible, symbol and/or photos of Matrimony

### 2 WE BELIEVE

**page 204**  
*Marriage was part of God's plan from the very beginning.*

- Discuss marriage as part of God's plan and its importance as a sacrament.
-  Discuss the importance of keeping promises.

**page 205**  
*The marriage covenant is built upon Christ's love for the Church.*

- Discuss Old and New Testament covenants and marriage.
-  Identify ways to be a loyal family member, friend, or neighbor.

 "Love Is Colored Like a Rainbow," Ray Repp, #24, Grade 5 CD

**page 206**  
*In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a man and a woman promise always to love and be true to each other.*

- Discuss marriage preparation, the Rite of Marriage, and fidelity.
-  Name ways married couples can be an example of Christian life.

- copies of Reproducible Master 24, guide page 203C

*Rite of Marriage*

**page 207**  
*Families are very important communities.*

- Discuss family responsibilities of parents and children.
- Read and discuss *As Catholics*.

### 3 WE RESPOND

**page 207**

-  Write slogans to encourage families, and design a billboard.

**pages 208–209**  
**Project Disciple**

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Explain the *Take Home* activity.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master for this chapter.

- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master, Chapter 24 (back of book)

**page 210**  
**Chapter 24 Test**

- Complete **Chapter 24 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 24 (back of book)