

# TOPIC: Marriage and Divorce

Name: 'Until Death Do Us Part?'

Many teens wonder about their future and whether or not they can expect to have a happy marriage and family, especially if they've already been hurt by dysfunction or divorce.

The goal of the meeting: for teens to start thinking about what they can be doing even now to prepare for a lasting marriage.



## GAMES:

### Game 1: Advertising for a good partner.

Ask teens to write an advertisement for an ideal marriage partner.

### Game 2: Cake without a recipe.

On the table are the usual ingredients for making a cake. One of the teenagers is asked to make a cake from all these ingredients. The resulting cake is to be baked. After the discussion, give the teenagers in the group a piece of cake.

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## QUESTIONS

(Questions for the whole group.)

To help the leader prepare, *possible* answers are given after each question. The purpose of the discussion is for the young people to express their thoughts. The leader can share his/her ideas at the end of the discussion.

1. What are some good reasons why people get married?  
*Love; common goals and interests; having a family; friendship and companionship*
2. Why do people get married even if the relationship with their partner is bad?  
*To get out of a worse situation at home; early pregnancy; to please parents or other people (or to show they are independent and can make their own decisions); fear of being lonely*

3. How does a strong marriage get weaker? What destroys a marriage?  
*Difficult circumstances and stress; disagreeing about something important; what comes out that wasn't obvious before they got married; people change over time*
4. Why do people allow marriages to weaken and break down?  
*It happens gradually and people don't notice until it becomes too hard to get back; people try but are not strong enough to maintain it; ignoring the problem and thinking it will solve itself; feelings of love have stopped so why try; people are too busy with other things*
5. Why should people try to avoid divorce?  
*It's very hurtful; it's expensive; it's difficult; it causes arguments and bitterness; it interferes with friends who feel they have to choose sides; it creates financial problems; children may feel rejected and blamed for the divorce; kids feel they need both of their parents.*
6. Why do some people divorce and marry again and again? Why don't they learn from past mistakes?  
*People don't realize their faults and take them into the next marriage; people want love and will try again; not seeing weaknesses in chosen partners or think they can save them*
7. Why is divorce often passed down from one generation to the next?  
*People do not have an example of a good marriage and commitment; not having experienced a good relationship and role model with the parent who left them*
8. What could we do right now to avoid divorce in our future marriages?  
*Take care of emotional health and relationships; learn how to relate to the opposite sex as friends; learn how to communicate feelings; learn to understand own personality; learn how to be satisfied in various circumstances;*
9. What kind of relationships can we have now that will help us be a good marriage partner in the future?  
*Respect people; know how to be genuine with people (not projecting a false image); not dating based on flirting or a physical relationship; learning to understand self and others.*
10. Is it possible to guarantee a lasting marriage? Why?  
*No, one person cannot control the other person; cannot control life circumstances; the only guarantee is one's own commitment and behavior*

Now give the kids a slice of cake made without a recipe.

### Wrap-up:

1. Many people take a “no recipe” approach to marriage. This means that the success of their marriage depends on luck, good fortune, fate, or experience.
2. If we are prepared for marriage, we have a “marriage recipe.” Its success depends on the quality of the recipe. It also matters to what extent both people in a marriage follow that recipe.
3. God has good plans for marriage. He created you, your partner, and the marriage itself. The Bible calls it all “good.”

Read Gal. 5:22-23 (the fruit of the Spirit). It lists some great ingredients for strong relationships, including marriage.

4. Under this plan, God wants each person to be growing and guided by His Spirit.
5. If both spouses allow God to work in their lives (listen to Him and obey Him), then the marriage will also grow towards what He wants it to be. He changes us.

Draw a triangle and show that as we draw closer to God (at the head of the triangle), we draw closer to each other.

