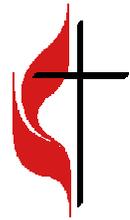


Lemont United Methodist Church
Sunday School



Notes to Parents

Dear Parents,

February 2007

Happy Valentine's Day! Depending on where you are in your life and your relationships, Valentine's Day can remind you of love, promise, or sadly, disappointment. When couples marry, we anticipate a life together filled with happiness. Then we discover that things don't always go smoothly and marriage is work. Yes, marriage is work! But the rewards of a strong marriage are worth the effort it takes to build one! Studies show that in addition to feeling healthier and happier yourself, your children will have a stronger sense of security, confidence, and self-esteem if they are raised within a loving marriage. How strong is your marriage? Is it possible to strengthen it? To answer those questions, think back on your early days together. Do you recall them fondly? Is there even one positive memory? If so, you have something to build on! In his book, "The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work," Dr. John M. Gottman outlines steps to improve the best to the most challenging relationships (see box at right). While his principles were developed for married couples, I believe that they will work for all relationships. Follow these principles with your spouse to build a stronger marriage. And follow these principles with your children to build stronger relationships with them too! Wishing you lots of love!

Yours in Christ,
Karin Peraino & Mary Rohrer

Mark Your Calendar:



2/18/07 – Marriage Class, "Where Have all the Flowers Gone?"

2/25/07 – Marriage Class, "Striking the Perfect Match"

3/11/07 – St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale (rescheduled from Valentine's Day) & LUMC Variety Show

Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work

1. **Know the intimate details of your partner's life.** What are your spouse's likes and dislikes? What are his/her hopes, dreams and goals; stresses, worries and fears? What is important in his/her life right now?
2. **Nurture Your Fondness and Admiration.** Remind yourself of your spouse's positive qualities; talk positively; and maintain a sense of respect for each other.
3. **Turn Toward Each Other Instead of Away.** Make an effort to listen and respond to your spouse. Acknowledge each other, chat, and be helpful.
4. **Let Your Partner Influence You.** Discuss things together before making big decisions. Respect your spouse's opinions (even if you don't agree). Acknowledge each other's feelings.
5. **Solve your Solvable Problems.** Start with a gentle approach, lighten up when arguing, soothe yourself and each other, compromise, and be tolerant of each other's faults.
6. **Overcome Gridlock.** Recognize that some problems are perpetual. Try to understand and discuss their root causes. Accept each other's differences.
7. **Create Shared Meaning.** Build on shared values; discuss things openly; help each other achieve goals; and create a life *together*.

FaithWeaver

FaithWeaver Bible Curriculum – Weaving Faith Through Life!

Using FaithWeaver, teachers will teach as Jesus taught, with a variety of learning experiences and interactive discussions. All grade levels will cover the same lesson, which can make follow-up discussions easy and interesting. Take home pages will be provided to keep you informed and allow you to continue the learning at home. Lessons move chronologically through the bible—Old Testament in the Fall, New Testament in the Winter/Spring.

- ✦ **Memorable Bible Lessons:** The experiential lessons connect from church to home, moving Bible lessons beyond church walls and into people’s lives!
- ✦ **Relevant for Today—and Every Day:** Each learner, no matter the age, sees how God’s Word is relevant to their lives, then applies it every day.
- ✦ **Reinforced Bible Learning All Week Long:** The HomeConnect™ section on each student page, everyone studying the same Bible story, and Driving Home the Point take-home pages help make this happen!
- ✦ **Know How to Live Like Christ:** Participants take what they’ve learned in class and use it to shape decisions about how they live their daily lives.

Although we hope to see every student each week, we realize that schedules sometimes do not allow that. Below is a calendar of upcoming lessons so that you may review them at home with your child if he/she should have to miss.

Lesson & Date	Bible Story	<i>Scripture</i>	Key Verse	Bible Point Ages 3-5	Bible Point Grades 1-HS
WINTER 2006-2007 (mostly New Testament)					
10) 2/04	Jesus is Rejected in His Hometown	Luke 4:22-30	Deuteronomy 6:5	<i>Believe in Jesus</i>	<i>Jesus deserves our love and gratitude</i>
11) 2/11	Fishermen are Astonished by a Miraculous Catch	Luke 5:1-11	John 14:15	<i>Obey Jesus</i>	<i>We show love for Jesus by obeying him</i>
12) 2/18	Jesus Teaches About Rewards	Luke 6:17-26	Colossians 3:2	<i>Put God First</i>	<i>Our lives should focus on what’s important to God</i>
13) 2/25	Jesus Teaches about Loving Enemies	Luke 6:27-38	Luke 6:31	<i>Jesus says love each other</i>	<i>Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated</i>
SPRING 2007 (New Testament)					
2) 3/04	Moses and Elijah Appear with Jesus	Luke 6:43-44	Matthew 5:16	<i>Jesus is God’s Son</i>	<i>Our Christ-like actions show we’re Christians</i>
3) 3/11	Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son	Luke 15:11-32	Nehemiah 9:17b	<i>God is Loving and forgiving</i>	<i>God will forgive us when we sin</i>
4) 3/18	Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet	John 13:1-17	Mark 9:35b	<i>God wants us to help others</i>	<i>Jesus wants us to follow his example of serving others</i>
5) 3/25	Jesus is Tried and Crucified	Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49	Romans 5:8	<i>Jesus died for us</i>	<i>Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins</i>