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Make Informed Choices about Dating and Marriage

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will recognize the importance of making good choices about dating and marriage.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Instead of an over-emphasis on appearance or popularity, students need to understand that dating is a process for learning more about themselves and the traits they like and dislike in another person. Recognizing this, they will be prepared to make good choices about their personal commitments in the future.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

I want someone who . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"I usually want to go out with someone because ____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will learn several important issues to consider when choosing to have a relationship with someone."

❑ STEP 4: Activity - 15 Minutes

Ask: "What are some of the reasons you choose to go out with someone?" As the class brainstorms ideas, record them on the board. Look for a common thread, such as, appearance, personality and fun.

Next ask students: "What is the purpose of dating?" Brainstorm ideas and record them. Look for the theme of their comments, such as getting to know someone or to have fun. Now ask: "When does dating lead to a long term commitment or marriage?" Continue the discussion as with the other questions.

Join students in a discussion about how dating is a first step in the process of selecting a lifelong partner. Bring the following topics into the discussion: marrying the first person you date; cultural differences across the world regarding dating and marriage;

making good decisions about who to date; how to find a good dating partner; the fact that people who marry young have a 59% chance of the marriage ending in divorce; and the importance of feeling good about yourself before you can be a good partner to another person. End the discussion by saying, "Choosing a spouse is an important decision that needs to be an informed personal choice."



LIFE MANAGEMENT: Unit 4
LESSON 9

Marriage

What do you want in a marriage partner?

Answer these questions to describe the type of person you would like to marry. Write your ideas about this person below.

What type of personality does this person have?

What are this person's hobbies or interests?

What is this person's religious belief?

What is this person's culture?

How much education will this person have?

What type of career or job will this person have?

What is the amount of money this person will earn?

Does your family need to approve of this person?

What does this person want out of life?

What kind of sense of humor does this person have?

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THE TRANSITION CURRICULUM

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❑ STEP 5: Activity - 30 Minutes

Go over the handout **Marriage** by giving a brief explanation of each topic. Let students discuss their preferences with a partner and

write them on the handout. Ask for volunteers to share their preferences with the class.

As a review, ask this final question, "What are some reasons to decide to marry someone?" Have students brainstorm their answers with their partner, then share with the class. Reemphasize the important issues to be considered when deciding on a life partner.

❑ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

Two things I would look for in a dating partner are "_____."

❑ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Have students give a brief oral report about either marriage or divorce: 1) an interview with someone who appears to be happily married or 2) research divorce statistics and causes of divorce.

KEY WORDS

spouse	permanent attributes	ego	preparation divorce	compatible
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MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handout: **Marriage**, page 151.
- Prepare for the discussion by examining your own values and experiences with relationships. This is a good time to share your own mistakes and triumphs.
- Prepare a screen image of the handout and prepare to talk about the concepts as they relate to marriage.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Problem Solving, Reasoning
- Personal Qualities: Self-Esteem, Honesty/Integrity