

REASONS TO HAVE A BABY

Brainstorm with the class ideas on why people decide to have children. Then discuss which are good reasons and which are poor reasons. The list may include:

FAMILY PRESSURE: Parents may want to be grandparents, family members expect you to add to the family, to carry the family name, etc. **REMEMBER:** family members will not be responsible for your children. It is the parents who have the 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week job of raising children. Family members have some of the fun, you have almost all of the work.

PEER PRESSURE (all your friends are having children): Children are too much work and responsibility to have just to fit in with your friends.

TRAPPING A PARTNER: This may not work, and if it does, a trapped partner is a resentful marriage partner and a poor parent to your child.

BRING A COUPLE CLOSER TOGETHER: If the couple already has a good relationship, a baby may bind them closer in the long run, but having children is one of the most difficult adjustments in a marriage. If the couple is already drifting apart, a baby will push them even farther apart; all their differences become more obvious.

FOR SOMEONE TO LOVE YOU—A SOURCE OF LOVE: Children need so much more love, attention, and care than they are capable of giving that most parents never get a full return on their investment of love in their children. Parent-child love is not evenly exchanged; rather, those children will pass that love on to their own children. As children grow up, they have lives of their own, they do not spend all their time showering their parents with love and attention. How much love and attention have you showered your parents with this week? Have you made it all worthwhile for them?

FOR COMPANIONSHIP DURING OLD AGE: When you are old your children may not live close enough to give much companionship or they may not want to spend as much time with you as you would like. Raising a child for all those years is a huge price to pay for companionship you may not even have.

YOUR RELIGION ENCOURAGES IT: If this is your only reason, would your church really want this for your children?

YOU LOVE CHILDREN: This is a good reason if you truly love them and you want to be a parent, not just because you think they are always cute and smell good.

Other Reasons?