
UNIT: DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE **TOPIC: Divorce and Remarriage**
TIMELINE: 2-3 days

OBJECTIVES:

After completing this unit the student will:

1. Identify terms associated with divorce and remarriage.
2. Identify the positive and negative aspects of divorce.
3. Discuss how the media portrays families and how realistic this portrayal is.
4. List community resources that are available to families experiencing divorce and remarriage.

MOTIVATOR/INTRODUCTION:

TELEVISION CLIPS--Begin class by viewing a portion of a television show with a traditional family such as, "Leave it to Beaver", or, "Father Knows Best", or, "Happy Days". Ask how many students actually live in that type of family. Discuss the changes that have occurred in the family over the years. View a portion of a television program dealing with a different type of family situation such as, "Charles in Charge", or, "Full House". Contrast the family situations in each program. Discuss the changes that have occurred in today's society. What are some possible causes for these changes?

INFORMATION:

1. **DEFINITIONS**--As a class define divorce, separation, stepfamily, nuclear family, blended family and extended family.
2. **TELEVISION DIVORCE**--Have the students identify television programs which are about divorced families. What are some of the problems that these families face? What are the positive aspects? (see page 3)

GUEST SPEAKERS:

1. **FAMILY COUNSELOR**--Invite a family counselor to speak to the class about problems that occur when two families are blended together or when a divorce occurs. How are these problems addressed? Allow the class to ask questions.
2. **BLENDED FAMILY**--Invite a blended family to come to class and explain their family situation. They should explain the challenges and rewards which occur from living in a blended family. Allow the class to ask questions.
3. **PANEL**--Have a panel of a variety of people who have dealt with divorce. For example: someone whose parents were divorced when they were a child, a young person whose parents have been divorced and haven't remarried, a young person whose parents were divorced, but are remarried, parents of someone who has been divorced, a counselor, members of a blended family (a variety of ages), etc. This will enable the students to see the opinions of all the people involved in these situations.

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE OVERVIEW CONTINUED

INDIVIDUALIZED ACTIVITIES:

1. **MEDIA AND DIVORCE**--Have each student find a magazine or newspaper article dealing with divorce or blended families (have them try to find one that deals with the children involved in the divorce). They should read the article and then present it to the class in their own words. (see page 4)
2. **LETTER TO A FRIEND**--Have students write a letter to a real or imaginary friend who is going through a divorce in his/her family. Have them give advice and encouragement to the friend. (see page 5)

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

DIVORCE CHALLENGES--Divide the class into small groups. Assign each group to discuss the positive and negative situations that a family may encounter when experiencing a divorce. As a group, have them select one of these positives and negatives and brainstorm solutions of how to deal with them. Have each group present their ideas to the class.

CHALLENGE PROJECTS:

1. **RESOURCES**--Have students make a list of community and private resources that are available to help a family that is experiencing a divorce situation or a blended family trying to develop a strong family relationship. List the name of the resource, its location and telephone number, who this resource serves, what services are provided, any costs involved and the names of people to contact at each agency. (see page 6-7)
2. **INTERVIEW**--Have students interview members of a family that have been through a divorce or in a blended family situation. Have the student report his/her findings to the class (difficulties, advantages, disadvantages, counseling, etc.).
(see page 8)

SUMMARY:

Divorce is not easy for anyone. Children and parents must adjust to many changes. The same is true of remarriage. However, if everyone works together the difficulties are made easier.

RESOURCES:
