
LESSON E

Practical Reasoning and Marriage

FOCUS: Solve a marriage problem using practical reasoning.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Students will solve a marriage problem by going through the practical reasoning process. Use Student Handout, "Practical Reasoning." Below is a brief example of how to use practical reasoning to solve a problem. Encourage the students to indicate all their circumstances that affect this problem and to brainstorm as many alternatives as possible. In addition, have the students state what consequences each alternative has for their family and other relationships. [Note: Students can find a problem that they have seen in marriage relationships like their parents or they can find a problem that they have experienced in a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship.]

Example:

1. Marriage/Relationship Problem: Not spending enough time together
2. Reasoning Process:

Goals: To develop relationship

Circumstances: Both work and involved in school and extra-curricular activities.

Alternatives:

Talk on the phone

Quit work

Quit extra-curricular activities

Break-up

Consequences:

Parents say use phone too much

Won't have spending money

Enjoy spending time with friends

Still like other person

Evaluate alternatives: None of the alternatives seem satisfactory.

Decision: You decide to try and spend more time together between activities, like at lunch and after school.

3. Act: You try and spend more time together.
4. Evaluate: After another month of trying to find the time for your relationship, you both realize that at the present time you are both want to pursue other interests so you decide to not see each other for a while.

[Note: Here is another example of how the practical reasoning could be approached.]

1. Marriage Problem: When should I get married?

2. Reasoning Process:

Goals: Graduate from college/ technical school

Circumstances: Boy/girl friend in 12th grade I really like

Car payments are high

Parents like boy/girl friend, want me to wait to marry

May qualify for scholarship or other financial assistance

Alternatives:

Consequences:

Marry out of H.S., go to college together

Little money, lots of school

Wait for 2 years

Hard to do

Break up

Unthinkable

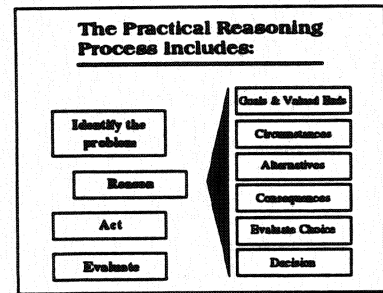
Evaluate Alternatives: You really want to continue relationship.

Decision: Wait for 2 years.

3. Act: Write goals together and decide how to spend time after H.S.

4. Evaluate: After trying it for a few months you recognize how hard it is but also that it is the right decision.

Practical Reasoning!



1. Identify a marriage problem.

2. Reason:

- What are your goals and valued ends?
- What are your circumstances?
- What are some alternatives to consider and what are the consequences for you and others?
- Evaluate your alternatives.
- Make decision.

3. Act—carry out your decision.

4. Evaluate.

Decide if your decisions needs to be changed.

Test Bank

Matching:

Description

1. several generations living in a home
2. children launched
3. married couple with children
4. children are added
5. couple forms, children are born
6. single parent married, includes step-children
7. an adult lives with children

Family Structure / Stages

- a. founding
- b. single-parent
- c. blended
- d. contracting
- e. extended
- f. expanding
- g. nuclear

8. Identify and explain 3 stages of a lasting relationship.

9. Intimacy means:

10. Name 3 shortcuts teenagers often take to intimacy.

Key:

1. e
2. d
3. g
4. f
5. a
6. c
7. b
8. Initiation, maintenance, commitment or termination
9. Learning to know feelings, moods, strenghts, and weaknesses of another.
Develop by sharing lots of little things.
10. Sex, drugs, alcohol