



Assembly

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Happily ever after

Aim:

- To recognise that relationships require work to succeed
- To consider biblical advice about relationships

Introduction

Famous couples

Tell pupils you have a list of famous couples. Give them the male from each partnership, asking them to tell you the female:

- Romeo (Juliet)
- David Beckham (Victoria Beckham, 'Posh')
- Chandler (Monica)
- Mickey Mouse (Minnie Mouse)
- Homer (Marge)
- Samson (Delilah)
- Clark Kent (Superman) (Lois Lane)
- Prince William (Kate Middleton)

Looking Deeper

A fairy tale romance

The announcement of the engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton was in November 2010. The story has an almost fairy-tale quality - a girl from a wealthy, but 'common' family getting to marry a prince, with the possibility of becoming queen. Fairy-tales often end with the prince and princess living 'happily ever after', but the



reality is that all relationships have their ups and downs and all need continual work to keep them successful. When people neglect their partner or take them for granted, the relationship founders. Like everyone else, Prince William and Kate Middleton will need to make time for each other and have fun together, not just now while they are 'young and in love', but throughout the years; they will need to keep talking and listening to each other; they will need to find out what to do to make the other feel loved and cherished, and do it; they will need to discuss differences and attempt to resolve them, practicing forgiveness; they will need to have other friendships and strong relationships (especially with family members) but not let those relationships control or take precedence.

Reflection

Advice for relationships

The Bible gives much good advice about all kinds of relationships, encouraging us to respect other people and consider them equally as important as we consider ourselves. A famous early Christian, Paul, wrote the following advice to Christians in the town of Philippi: 'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.' (Philippians 2:3-4) He also advised Christians in Ephesus to 'get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other.' (Ephesians 4:31-32)

These are high ideals and very difficult to attain all the time. St Francis of Assisi, a Christian who lived in the early 13th century recognized that he would never be able to live so considerably without God's help. He wrote a famous prayer, which is still used today:



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Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.
Amen

Keywords

engagement
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Prince William
Kate Middleton
romance
love

