

## Is Marriage A Dinosaur?

www.smartmarriages.com

Is marriage a dinosaur... an outmoded institution on its way to extinction? Or are we at the dawn of a marriage renaissance? Most of us don't have enough information to join the debate. Take this quiz and see where you stand.

1. *True or False:*

Researchers can now predict which engaged couples will succeed or fail with better than 90% accuracy.

2. *They base these predictions on: (pick one)*

- A. Level of couple agreement on three major issues: money, housework, and vacations.
- B. How a couple handles disagreements.
- C. Similarity of backgrounds.
- D. Level of love and commitment.
- E. Sexuality compatibility.

3. *The optimism about reversing the divorce rate is based on research that found:*

- A. Irreconcilable differences are not the cause of divorce.
- B. A successful marriage is based on divorce-proofing behaviors that anyone can learn.
- C. It doesn't take a licensed, degreed mental health professional to teach marriage skills courses.
- D. All of the above.

4. *True or False:*

A national survey reports that a long-time first marriage has become the new status symbol.

5. *True or False:*

Men are better off married.  
Women are better off single.

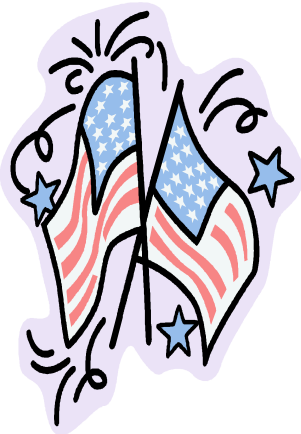
(answers on page 3)

Strengthening  
Families for Life

## Children Learn What They Live

© Dorothy L. Nolte, All rights reserved

**Volume 3, Issue 7**  
**July 2010**



If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.

If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.

If children live with jealousy, they learn what envy is.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement, they learn to be confident.

If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to find love in the world.

If children live with recognition, they learn to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, they learn to be generous.

If children live with honesty and fairness, they learn what truth and justice are.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those around them.

If children live with friendliness, they learn that the world is a nice place in which to live.

If children live with serenity, they learn to have peace of mind.

With what are your children living?

Check out the following video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diUB7OGRJ8E>

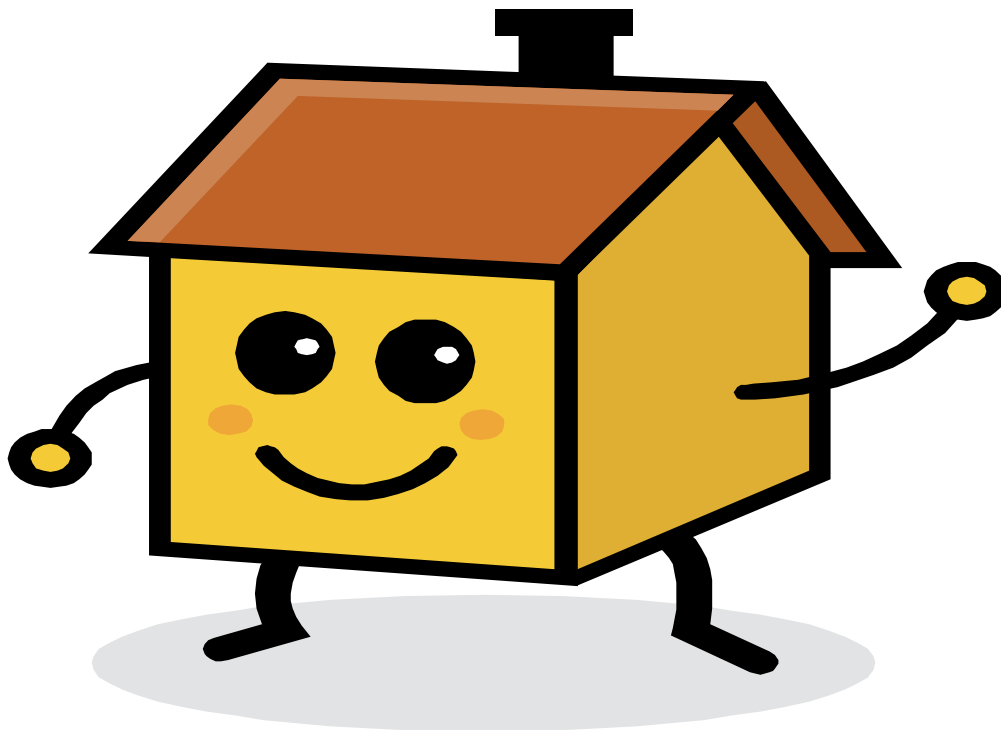
Are you doing your part to teach your children what you want them to know?

**“Marriage is not a noun; it’s a verb. It isn’t something you get. It’s something you do. It’s the way you love your partner every day.” ~ Barbara De Angelis**

Hey Kids! Some of your parents are currently leaving you in the care of someone else while they go out and attend a group that we offer and others of you might remember a time when your parents attended this group. They learned a lot of different things during the time they attended; some of which they might be using at home. The very first day they attended their group they had to decide, with the other moms and dads, what kind of rules they would have for the group. Yep, that's right, even grown-ups have rules!

Think about the rules that you have at home. There are probably some you don't like and others that aren't so bad. With the house below, think of some of the things that happen in your home that you like or would like to have happen more often. Maybe it's hearing how you did something right, family movie or game night, getting and giving hugs and kisses, hearing "I love you", or bed time stories. Whatever it might be that you like, put those things inside the house. Now, think of some of the things you don't like. You may not like doing chores, but those are responsibilities and that's different. Some of the things you might not like and wouldn't want in your house may be fighting, yelling, criticizing, saying mean things, or getting spanked. When you're done, show it to your parents, talk with them about it and maybe put it on the fridge as a reminder. *Why? Because you're important. You're part of the family and you count.* You might just find that there becomes more of what you like and less of what you don't.

### House Rules



**Parents,  
If you'd like help talking about the house rules or need a refresher on the tools and skills, call and touch base with Brooke or Rhonda to get back on track! Call 620-272-0010**

# Upcoming Events

## July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 MfK	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 MfK	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 MfK	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 MfK	28	29	30	31

## July

Marriage for Keeps continues every Tuesday through the month of July.

## August

Marriage for Keeps will be starting English and Spanish classes in Dodge City around the middle of August.

## Is Marriage A Dinosaur?

(continued from page 1)

1. True
2. B: All couples, those that stay happily married, and those that divorce, disagree the same amount and about the same basic issues. And, there are five issues, not three: sex, money, kids, in-laws, and time (leisure time/ house-work). What distinguishes the couples that succeed from those that fail is not the content or number of their disagreements but how they handle them.
3. D: All of the above. A) Research finds that all successful couples have approximately ten irreconcilable differences. Couples that make it have the skills to dance in spite of their differences. They don't operate on the expectation that true love means they should agree on things. B) Research finds that we are ALL capable of learning basic marital skills. C) A million dollar National Institute of Mental Health funded study found that trained lay leaders can teach marriage classes .
4. True: The Wall Street Journal reports that long-lasting first marriages are the new status symbol.
5. False: We have operated with this mythology since the '70s. It was based on one flawed study. Both married men and women do better on measures of health, longevity, happiness, sexual satisfaction, and wealth than our single counterparts. It's also true for children. For years we have been told that marriage did not make a difference. Children in intact families do better in all measures: wealth, health, school success, delinquency, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, even their own future marriages - than their counterparts in never married, single parent, or step-families. Children even do better in intact marriages with conflict.

## September

Marriage for Keeps will be starting an English class in Garden City in September.

Call our office for more information:

**620-272-0100**





**Marriage for Keeps Staff:**

Rhonda S. Goodloe, LMSW  
Regional Coordinator  
r\_goodloe@sbcglobal.net

Brooke Hamlin-Lopez  
Family Specialist  
bhamlin-lopez@sbcglobal.net

Workshop Facilitators

Mike Houser, LMSW, AAPS

Kelly Houser, LBSW

H. Alex Chavez

Lea Ann E. Seiler

Isabel Aguilera

Michael Zuniga

Liliana Zuniga

**Marriage for Keeps Announcements**

Mike Houser and Michael and Liliana Zuniga will be presenting at the Stewardship Conference, Saturday August 28 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City, KS.

Mike Houser will be talking about fatherhood. “The fatherhood role is critical in shaping and guiding children’s lives in individual families and society. Fatherhood is a full time job and we, as fathers, have the opportunity to make an eternal investment in our children that can be passed down to future generations as well. We will talk about being a dad in a time when, in many families, the important role of a father may not even be present. Topics covered will include respect, having fun, forgiveness, discipline, and connecting. We will look at the purpose of the fatherhood role as a leader, teacher, protector, comforter, and anchor for the family today.”

Michael and Liliana Zuniga will be presenting in Spanish about marriage and ways to make a marriage stronger.

This is a good opportunity to get some more information to help strengthen your family. Call 620-272-0010 for more information.



“The single biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place.” George Bernard Shaw



**marriageforkeeps-ks.org**

**catholicsocialservice.org**

**Marriage for Keeps  
603 N. 8th  
Garden City, KS 67846**

**Phone: 620-272-0010  
Fax: 620-272-0025**

marriageforkeeps-ks.org