

**UNIT TRAIT***Loyalty***UNIT QUOTE***You don't earn loyalty in a day. You earn loyalty day-by-day. ~ Jeffrey Gitomer***UNIT POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

- Emphasize the importance of loyalty in all types of relationships – friendships, dating, family and marriage.
- Review factors related to divorce in America.
- Present an overview of the week by showing the Unit 15 Power Point presentation.

**ETHICAL DILEMMA – TOUGH DECISIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE**

- The dilemmas ask students how they would handle certain situations pre-marriage and while married.
- As always, this is “process-oriented.” Direct students to write out their answers first, then get them on their feet discussing and debating.

**LECTURE – STRATEGIES TO CREATE A HEALTHY MARRIAGE**

Lecture on strategies to create a healthy, long-lasting marriage.

**CHARACTER MOVIE – *A Walk To Remember*****2 ROLE MODELS – NANCY REAGAN & DICK AND RICK HOYT**

For each unit we provide two role models. At the conclusion of each chapter, we provide discussion questions to exemplify the featured trait. As the teacher, you can decide if you want to assign both chapters, assign one chapter, or let the student decide which chapter to read.

**LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY – BALANCE BALL**

This is located at [www.characterandleadership.com](http://www.characterandleadership.com). Under member area, select Leadership Activities. Activities are designed to be interactive and allow students to learn by doing.

**BASIC SKILL – RESUME WRITING**

This one takes some time, but it will lead into next week (Employability and Workplace Skills). They can bring this resume to the mock interview.

**GUEST SPEAKER PROVIDES LIFE LESSONS**

It is suggested to bring in a counselor or a husband/wife team.

**CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP BLOG**

Go to [www.characterandleadership.com](http://www.characterandleadership.com) and click on the blog button to view the weekly post. Dr. Hoedel writes about current events, provides commentary and asks discussion questions. To receive notifications about blog posts, “follow” us on X @CDandLeadership or “like” our page on Facebook at Character Development & Leadership.

**LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLE – COMMITMENT TO LEARNING & SELF-IMPROVEMENT**

This is located on our website. Under member area, select Leadership Principles.

**FINAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT – LOYALTY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

This is the culminating assignment where we ask students to answer essay-type questions on paper and then provide oral presentations. In this particular assignment, students will reflect on loyalty within friendship and long-term relationships.

# LOYALTY

How would you define this trait? \_\_\_\_\_

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Definition provided by teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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*“You don’t earn loyalty in a day.  
You earn loyalty day-by-day.”  
~ Jeffrey Gitomer*

What does this quote mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Making Marriage Last

### OBJECTIVES OF LECTURE

- Provide students with a realistic viewpoint of marriage and long-term relationships.
- Discuss factors that contribute to divorce and steps they can take to increase the odds of achieving a long and healthy marriage.
- Be sure to inform the students of the psychological, economic and health benefits of marriage.

Most people know that since 1975, the divorce rate in America has consistently hovered around 50%. That means for every two couples who decide to marry, one of those couples will eventually divorce. Here are a few statistics that most people don't know.

Ask the students, “Do you think people getting married for the second time have higher or lower divorce rates?”

- The divorce rate for 2nd marriages is 60%.
- The divorce rate for 3rd marriages is 67%.

You might think that people would get better with practice, but research tells us that people continue to make the same mistakes (pick people for the wrong reasons, avoid addressing their own personal issues that contributed to the last divorce, continue to take marriage for granted...).

### PREDICTING DIVORCE

Researchers have become very adept at predicting who will stay married and who will divorce. In fact, John Gottman has been able to predict with 90% accuracy the outcome of a marriage,

simply by observing how premarital couples communicate. David Olson can predict with 84% accuracy the outcome of a marriage, based on a survey called PREPARE, taken before the couple marries. **Put up the *Predicting Divorce* overhead.** Watch this short clip on predicting divorce: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw9SE315GtA>

### IT'S NOT JUST A FLIP OF A COIN

While the chances of remaining married are approximately 50% for first-time marriages, everyone does not have the same likelihood of divorcing – it's not as random as a flip of a coin. We all bring certain background factors, traits, skills and relationship dynamics to a marriage, which raise or lower the odds of staying married or ending up divorced. **Put up the *Predictors of Divorce and the Voice of Experience* overheads** to better understand what factors contribute to a marital outcome.

### MOST DECIDE TO MARRY

Despite the high divorce rate in America, marriage is still very popular – roughly 83% of Americans eventually decide to marry (Pew Research Center, 2016). For those who choose wisely and stay the course, marriage has many psychological, health and economic benefits. We also know that children do much better when raised in households with married parents than in never-married or divorced homes. **Put up the *Benefits of Marriage* overhead** and discuss.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**The Predictors of Divorce overhead** provides some helpful hints to increase the odds of achieving a healthy, long term marriage. They include: 1) wait until your mid-twenties to marry, 2) don't get pregnant before you get married, 3) earn a college diploma and establish your career before marrying, 4) discuss your values and goals with the person you love and 5) improve your communication skills. We also need to be better "pickers." Far too many of us pick marital partners for the wrong reasons and disregard warning signs.

*"Choose your life's mate carefully, from that one decision comes 90% of all misery or happiness."*

- Life's Little Instruction Book (appears on overhead)

**MARRIAGE IS HARD WORK**

Ask the students:

- Who has a sibling? Are there times that you don't get along?
- Who gets into arguments with their parents?
- What about best friends? Do you ever go through difficult times with a best friend?
- What makes us think that being married to somebody will be any different?

We are all human and each of us brings our own unique personalities to marriage. This is not necessarily a bad thing. It just means we have to be realistic about marriage. Every meaningful relationship we have in our lives will have ups and downs. It is a myth that once people marry, they

will live "happily ever after." The marital vows we take remind us that every marriage goes through rough times, requiring hard work and persistence from both partners.

*"I take you to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish in good times and in bad until death do us part."*

One of the reasons marriages fail is because one person is willing to work and the other one isn't. For example, one person agrees to go to counseling and the other doesn't. Another reason marriages fail is people give up too early. They encounter a difficult period in their marriage and choose to get a divorce. They erroneously believe that they shouldn't experience such problems, and don't understand that other couples are having similar problems.

**LOYALTY & COMMITMENT**

Unless we are talking about extreme issues in marriage, the one quality that separates people who decide to divorce and those who decide to stay married is loyalty. Our marital vows do not say, "I take you until I'm relatively unhappy, until you make me mad, or until I find somebody better." Therefore, if we commit to a vow that says, "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer," shouldn't we honor it? If we do not plan to honor that vow, should we really say it?

### OVERVIEW

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Mandy is a quiet girl who gets teased a lot for being so pure. Landon is a cool kid who doesn't care about much in life. As a form of punishment, the principal forces Landon to take a part in the school play. He gets to know Mandy and falls for her. Unfortunately, Mandy has a secret that will test their relationship. This is a wonderful movie that allows students to take a fresh look at peer pressure, teasing, love, and loyalty.

#### NOTE TO TEACHERS

This is another great movie to watch from beginning to end. I had difficulty cutting any scenes at the end because it is all so valuable.

### MORAL OF THE STORY

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Love has a way of transforming us into better, stronger people, if we allow it to. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

### SELECTED SCENES

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Scenes 4-6 (10:58 – 22:57)	12 minutes
Scenes 11-12 (36:28 – 42:44)	6 minutes
Scenes 16 - end (53:04 – 1:38:00)	<u>45 minutes</u>
Total	63 minutes

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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- 1) One underlying theme of this movie is peer pressure. Landon found the courage to break away from his old buddies who were being so cruel. How did he do this? Why can't more people find this courage?
- 2) In so many ways, Mandy became Landon's role model. In what ways did her faith and courage change him?
- 3) After Landon's initially cruel behavior, Landon had to prove his love for Mandy. What did he do to prove he was worthy of her love? Would you be willing to go to similar lengths to prove your love to someone?
- 4) If you found out that you had a terminal disease, would you create a list? What would be the top three things on your list?
- 5) Do you think that these two teenagers were old enough to really understand what love is and to truly commit to each other? Remember, the number one predictor of divorce is getting married before age 21.
- 6) There is a particular passage that was mentioned in the movie (scene 25 & 27) about love. Write down this passage and see if the students agree with it. Is there something they disagree with and/or would change? Could they write their own passage about what love means to them.

**NANCY REAGAN**

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1. Many criticize the relationship between Ronald and Nancy Reagan while other revere their relationship. What is your opinion of their relationship? Explain.
2. Give at least two reasons why the Reagan’s marriage lasted over 50 years.
3. During her public life, many feminists criticized Nancy Reagan. List at least two reasons for this criticism.
4. Despite his presidential duties, President Reagan always seemed to have time to do this for Nancy?
5. Shortly after the presidency, President Regan was diagnosed with \_\_\_\_\_ disease. How did Nancy respond and take care of him until his death?
6. What inspires you about Nancy Reagan and how can her life inspire you to be a better person?

**DICK AND RICK HOYT**

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1. After confirming Rick’s diagnosis – a spastic quadriplegic with cerebral palsy – what was the advice of the doctor? What did his parents do? As a parent, what would you have done?
2. What was the “Hope Machine” and how did it change their lives?
3. When Dick discovered how much Rick enjoyed running in races, how did he change his life?
4. When trying to qualify for the Boston Marathon and then for the World Championship in the triathlon, how did the race officials respond to them? What are your thoughts on that?
5. What inspires you about Dick and Rick Hoyt, and how can their lives influence you to be a better person?

## **BASIC SKILL**

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Resume Writing

## **RATIONALE**

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This is part I of a two-week segment. Part II comes next week when the students go through mock job interviews. While students do not have a lot to put on a resume at this age, it is still good practice.

## **EXERCISE**

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The students should spend a day or two in the computer lab, researching and developing their own resume. There are many different formats to use for a resume. To review some of these formats, here is an internet resource:

[jobsearch.about.com/od/sampleresumes/a/sampleresume2.htm](http://jobsearch.about.com/od/sampleresumes/a/sampleresume2.htm)

## **MAKE IT PERFECT**

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Regardless of the format, there is no room for errors in a resume. Sometimes hundreds of people apply for one job. Of those hundreds of applicants, approximately three will receive an interview. Resumes are used to quickly weed out applicants. Here is a list of steps you can take to make sure your resume does not end up in the trash can.

- Make sure your resume is free of typos, misspelled words and grammatical errors.
- Put your resume on heavier weighted paper or stationary. A nice touch is to use a matching business envelope and paper. Do not use fluorescent or bright colors.

- Make sure you use a good printer that makes the resume look clean and crisp.
- Use 12 or 14 point font and make the margins 1/2 to 1 inch.
- Use bullets and headings to make your resume reader-friendly.
- In the digital age, it is important to use a standard software program like Word, as it is common to email a resume to the company.

## **GENERAL HEADINGS TO USE ON A RESUME**

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- **Contact Information** – This part of the resume should be bolded and centered. If you have a weird email address, open up a more conservative account for the purpose of finding a job.
- **Objective** – This should be a concise (one to two sentences) statement of your immediate objective for the resume.
- **Educational Experience** – List academic honors, GPA (if above a 2.0), focus of study, major, etc.
- **Work Experience** – In reverse chronological order, list jobs and job responsibilities. If you have no work experience, list chores, baby sitting, or skills that would qualify you for the job.
- **Computer Skills** – List the computer programs in which you are competent.
- **Activities** – List past and present organizations, athletics or community service projects you have performed.
- **Achievements & Honors**



