# Ages 7-10: Clothing Our Minds for Marriage

### Materials Needed for Each Student

*Words for Marriage* (3 per page), *Marriage Figures and Clothing*, scissors, glue, pens or pencils

### Prepare in Advance

Print and gather materials. Cut apart copies of the *Words for Marriage*.

### New Church Concept
Teacher Background

The reason why Divine Truths are meant by clothing generally lies in things in the next life that are representative. All there, both angels and spirits, appear clothed in garments, each one in garments that accord with their truths. Those in possession of truths that are authentic and come from God appear clothed in brilliantly white garments; others appear in others different from these. In short, the character of their understanding is what is revealed and represented by their garments. See *Arcana Coelestia* 10536

Everything in the Word contains a marriage of good and truth. Because of this, to commit sexual immorality means, symbolically, to adulterate the goods of the Word and falsify its truths. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 134



The New Church teaches that clothing in the Word represents ideas that clothe our minds. For example, the Lord says that to care for His people, "He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head" (Isaiah 59:17). But for wicked people who want to hurt and shame others, "Pride serves as their necklace; violence covers them like a garment" (Psalm 73:6). This activity prompts children to think about ideas they can "put on" to prepare for marriage.

1. How does clothing help us? (It protects from heat and cold, keeps us clean, gives us privacy, etc.) Some people wear uniforms. What might a uniform tell us? (Uniforms show things people do, e.g. police, or doctor.) Sometimes people wear very special clothes, for example, wedding clothes. Why do people wear special clothes for weddings? (to show how important weddings are)
2. In the spiritual world people's clothing shows what they are thinking. Angels who love the Lord and others appear in beautiful clothes. But evil spirits who love themselves and worldly things appear in rags. We can prepare for heaven by "clothing" our minds with beautiful ideas from the Lord's Word.
3. In our story, Potiphar's wife took hold of Joseph's garment. Symbolically, she tried to take away from him the truth that protecting marriage is important. But Joseph knew it was wrong and ran away.
4. The most special "clothing" we can choose for our future wedding are the ideas that will clothe our minds, especially the ways we should treat the person we will marry.
5. Hand out the *Words for Marriage.* Talk about the words. Explain in simple terms what they mean. Some words are from the marriage ceremony in the General Church's *Liturgy*. For example, "cherish" means to care for someone lovingly. Ask students which words they would like to "wear" in their future marriage.
6. Hand out the *Marriage Figures and Clothing*. Students will cut out the rectangle around a figure and then clothe it by cutting out pieces of clothing that show the ways in which they want to honor marriage and gluing them onto the figure. Students can either write selected *Words for Marriage* beside the pieces of clothing, or cut out and glue words around the figures.
7. If time allows, students can make one figure showing qualities they want to have and the other showing qualities they hope for in their future spouse.

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# Words for Marriage:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| love | respect | be kind |
| honor | support | stick-together |
| comfort | encourage | listen |
| cherish | share | confide |
| be faithful | trust | be a true friend |

# Words for Marriage:

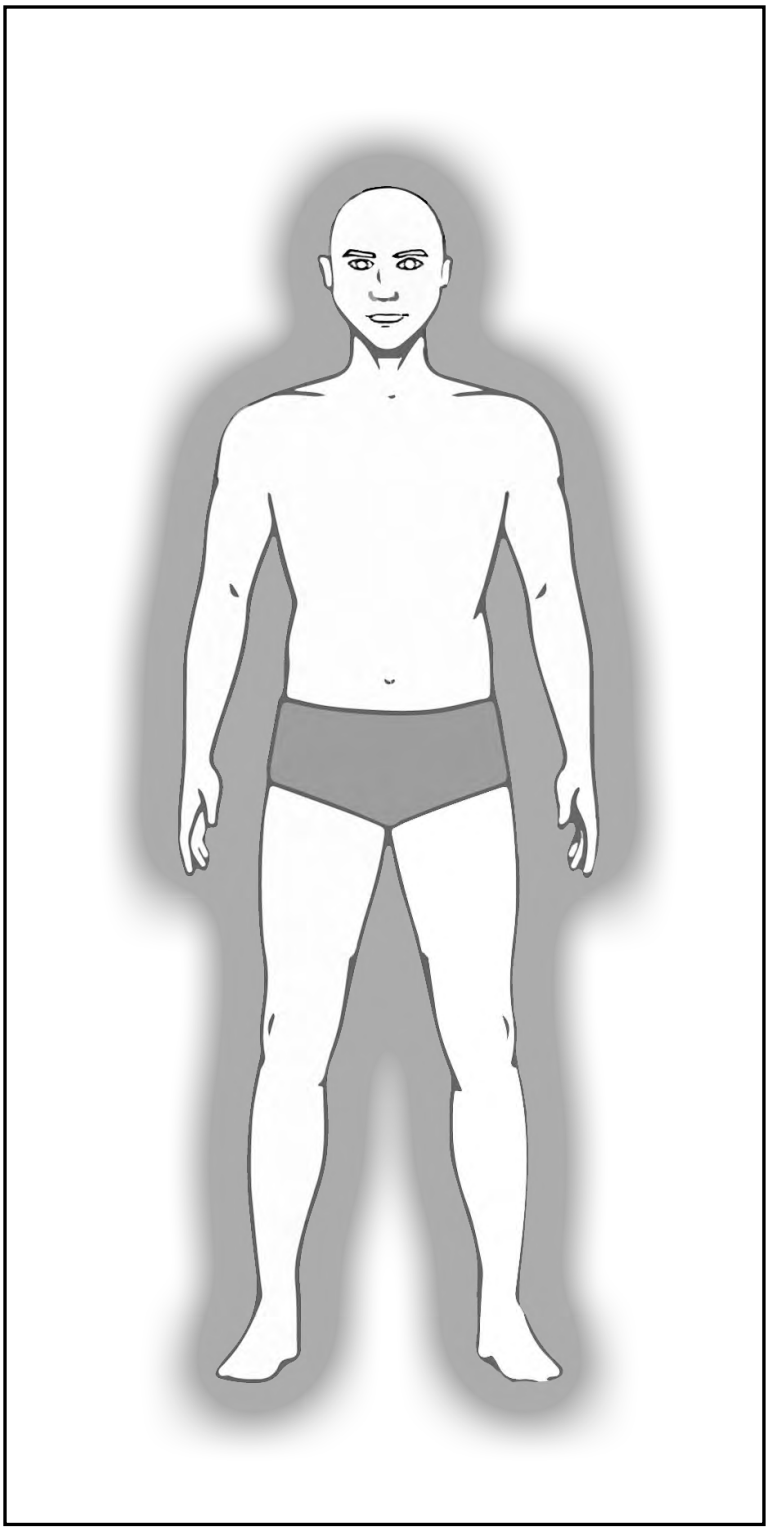
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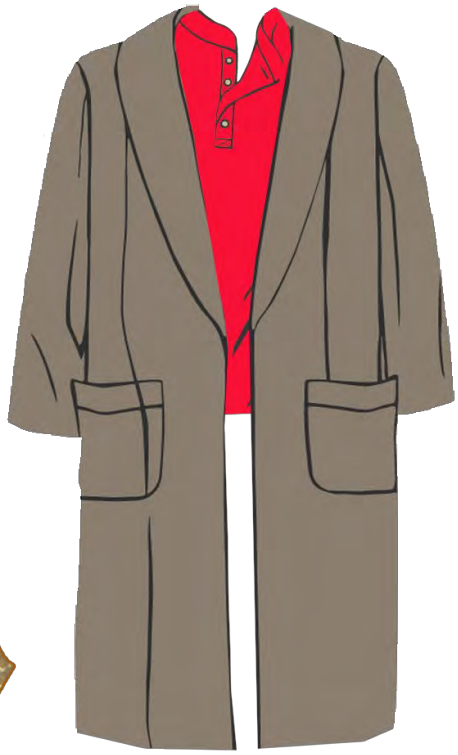
## Marriage Figures and Clothing

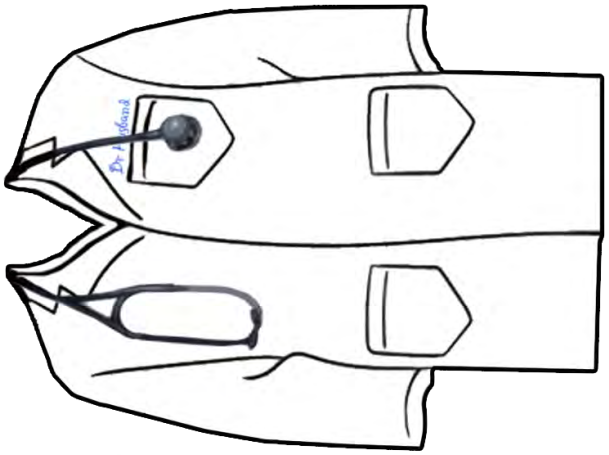
















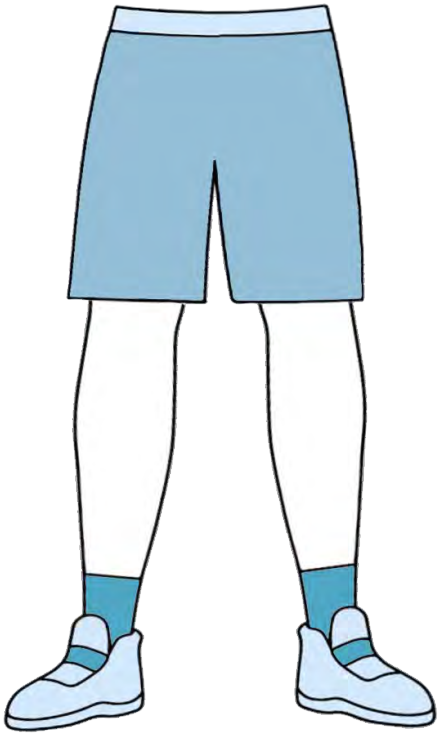






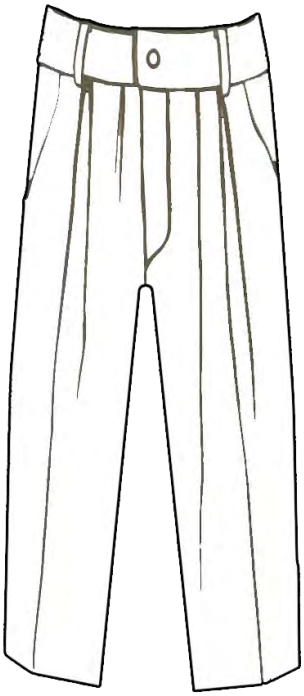
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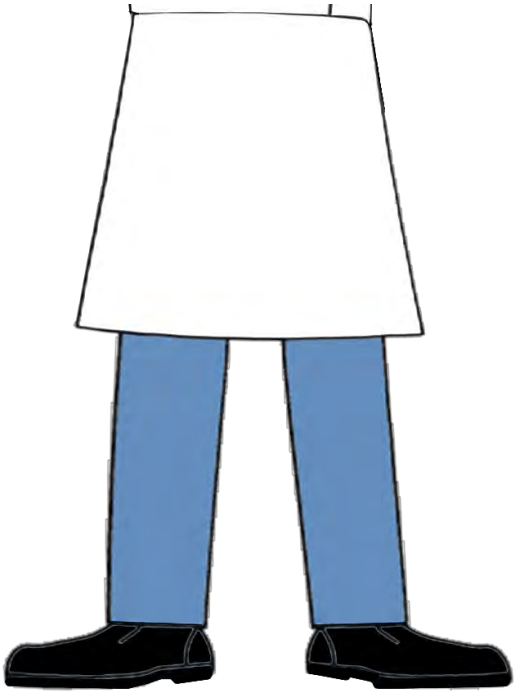
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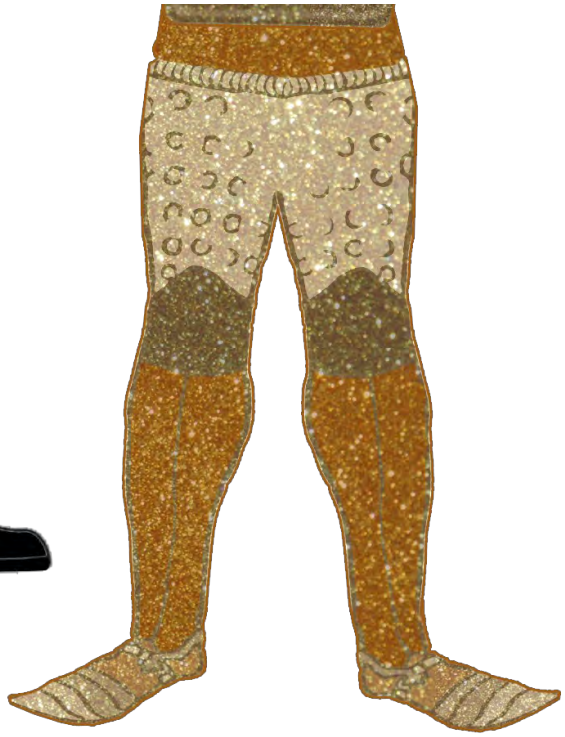












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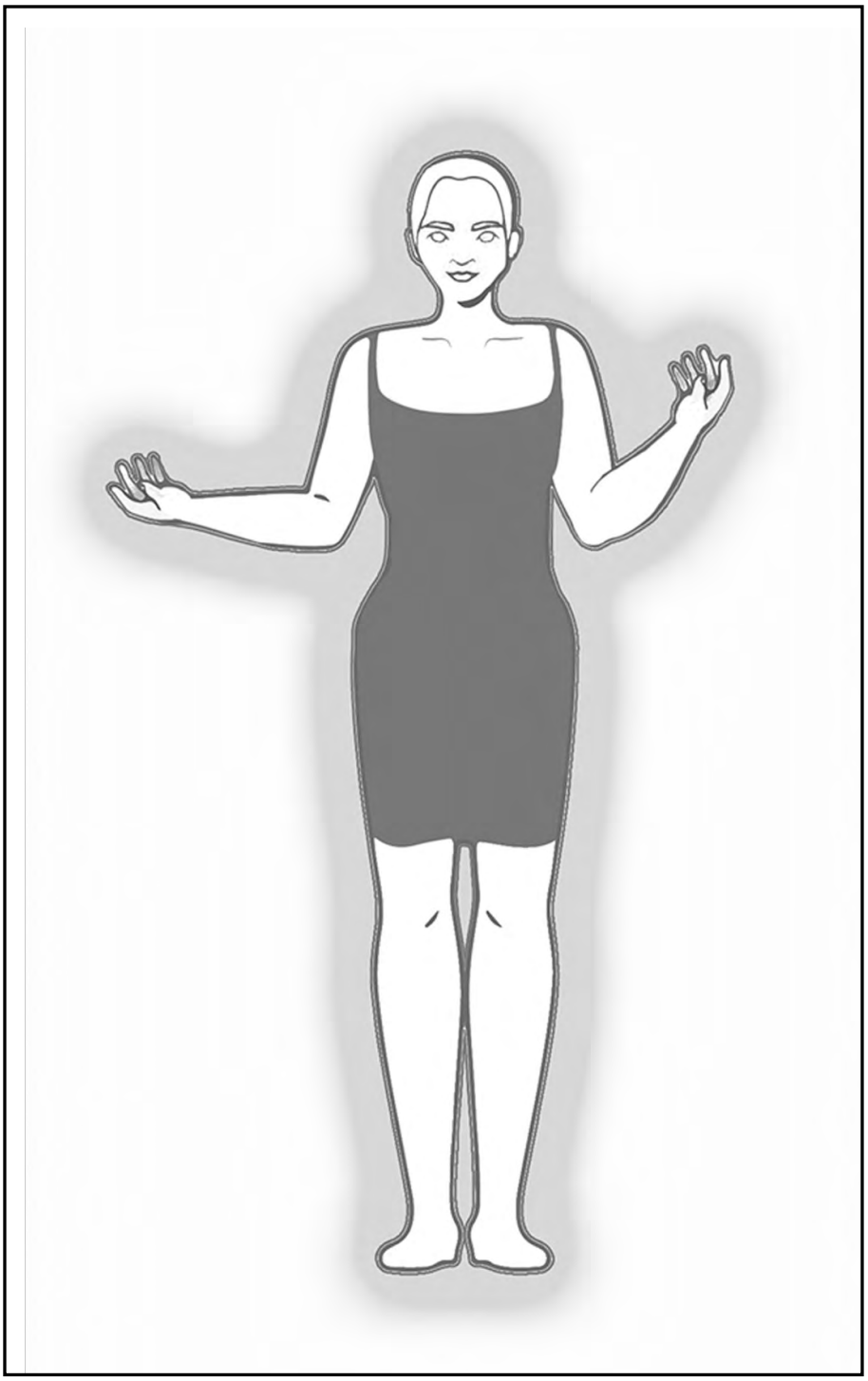




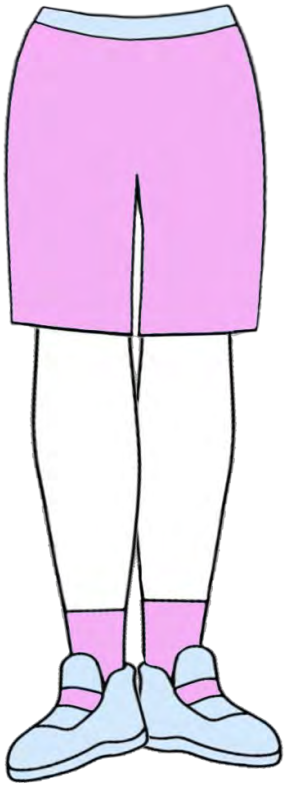


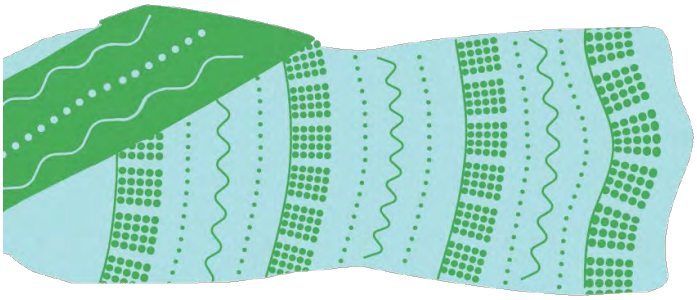

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## Marriage Figures and Clothing













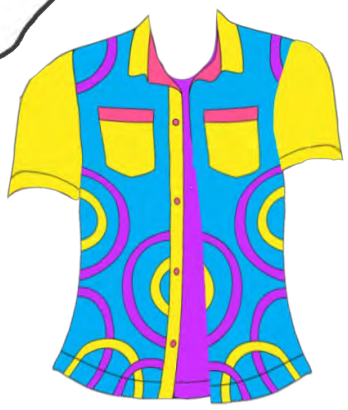
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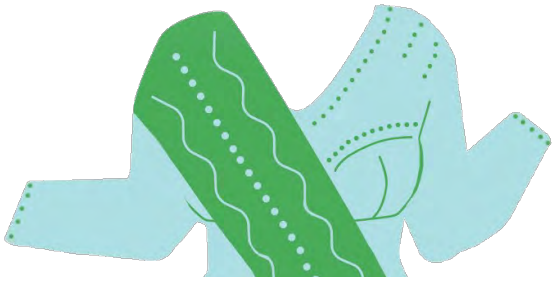






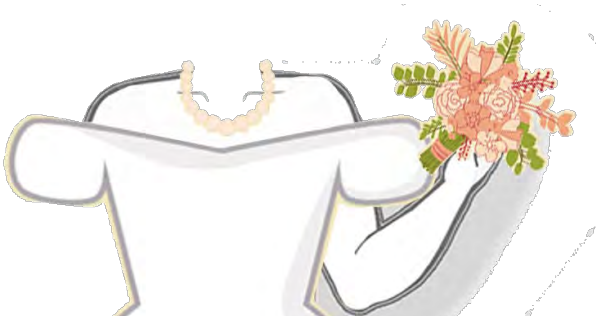






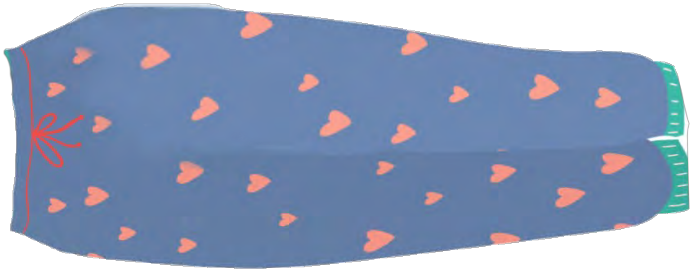












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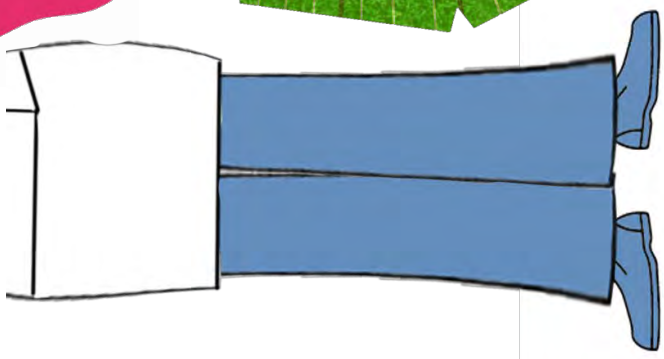












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