

Is Marriage Really Necessary?

Read the following scenario with your group:

In your sociology class at school, your teacher shows a chart depicting current societal trends in marriage. From the chart, you notice a large increase in recent years in the number of couples who are choosing to live together without being married.

After class you talk to your friend Luke, who was also in the class, about the trend. Luke asks, “Is marriage really necessary? Why shouldn’t two people who love each other be able to express their love through sexual intimacy without being married?”

Discuss the following questions as a group:

Act in Faith

- How might Luke exercise faith as he searches for answers to his questions?

Examine Concepts and Questions with an Eternal Perspective

- What does Luke need to understand about the purpose of marriage in Heavenly Father’s plan?
- Why do you think God commands that the sacred powers of procreation are to be used only by a husband and wife? (You may want to refer to the fourth paragraph of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” which you can find on the inside of the back cover of your study journal.)
- How could Doctrine and Covenants 49:15–17 help Luke view the concept of marriage with an eternal perspective?

Seek Further Understanding through Divinely Appointed Sources

- What are other sources that could be helpful to someone who might be confused about the purpose of marriage? Take a few minutes and search the scriptures, general conference talks, or the *For the Strength of Youth* booklet to find statements that might help to answer Luke’s question.

