

The Faithful House Couple Handbook

“Affirming Life, Avoiding Risk”



Catholic Relief Services • Maternal Life International • Maternal Life Uganda

The Faithful House Couple Handbook is a picture-based summary of *The Faithful House* couple training and formation. By reviewing the pictures and the accompanying text, a couple can refresh their memories about what they learned and experienced in their training. If a couple is experiencing troubles in their marriage, they can “sort through” the house and see where the problem lies. A couple can also use the handbook to share *The Faithful House* message with others.

We hope that you will visit the handbook frequently and continue to build a Faithful House in your marriage and family!

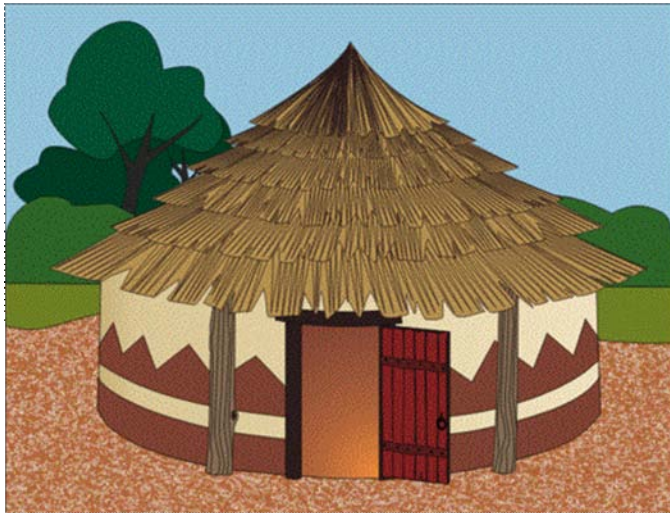


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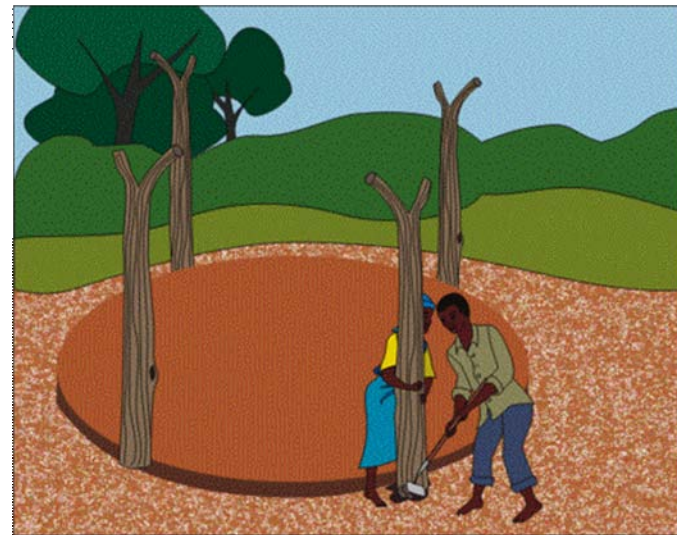
1. **INTRODUCTION:** Through *The Faithful House*, you will realize the blessings of a loving and lasting marriage.



2. To build a house, we have to prepare and plan and work together. This is also what we do to build our marriage.



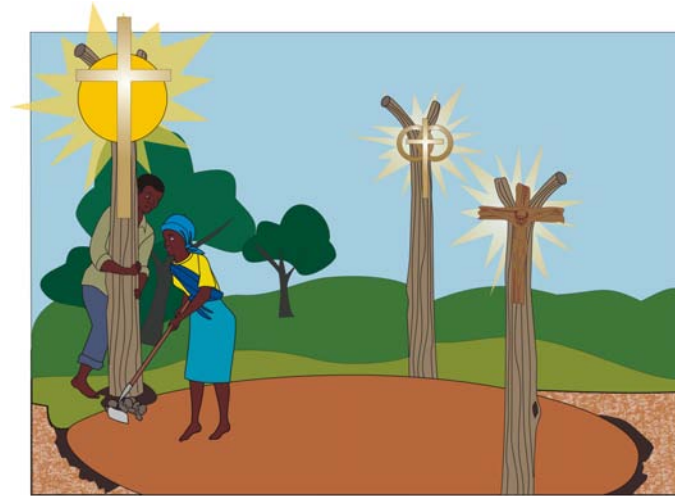
3. **A FOUNDATION IN GOD:** Unless the Lord builds the house, the builder toils in vain.



4. **THE FOUR PILLARS:** The man and woman must work together to build strong pillars, or the house will collapse.



5. PILLAR ONE, TRUE LOVE: To love your spouse as Christ loves us all.



7. PILLAR THREE, RESPECT: To see your spouse as beloved and always treat your spouse with respect and dignity.



6. PILLAR TWO, FAITHFULNESS: To be faithful to your spouse and to give your body to no one else.



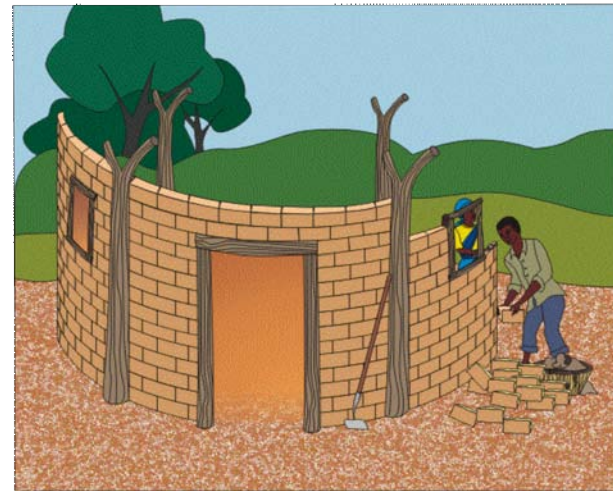
8. PILLAR FOUR, COMMUNICATION: To give and receive, to share willingly, to listen with love.



9. OUR VALUES: a) God, b) Spouse, c) Children, d) Job, e) Others.



10. THE DOOR: “Submit yourself to each other out of reverence for Christ Jesus.” Live out authority, responsibility and accountability as God wants.



11. WINDOWS OF LIGHT AND FORGIVENESS: Many times we fail in our marriage, but we must be willing to forgive.



12. THE ROOF: Consciousness is our deep, loving awareness of God and others; it is our capacity to know, to act and to love.



13. HIV AWARENESS: Know what HIV is and how it is transmitted, and how “A & B” can stop the HIV epidemic.



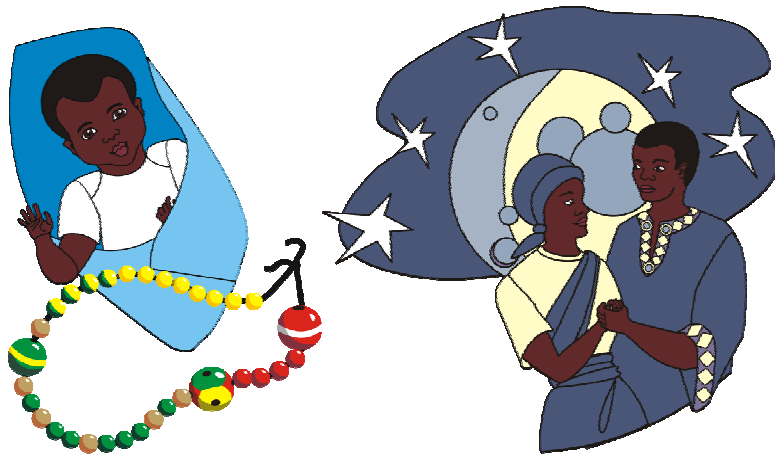
15. THE MARRIAGE BED: Let us be with each other in deep, loving awareness.



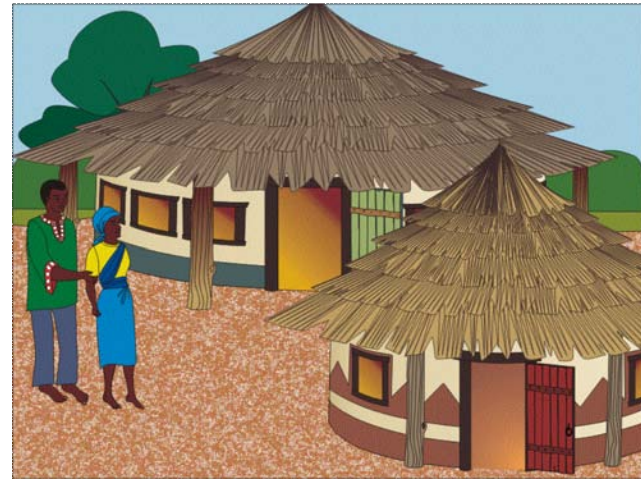
14. HIV TESTING: Knowing our HIV status allows us to use our consciousness and change our behaviors.



16. THE MARRIAGE BANQUET: Invitation, preparation, feasting, gratitude.



17. THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE: To create love, to give life, to properly order our sexual drive.



19. ROOM FOR CHILDREN: How do we plan for children?



18. TWO PATHS FROM THE HOUSE: What path do we choose?



20. PREPARING FOR PREGNANCY: VITAL means Vitamins, Iron, Testing, Attendant, Location. Have a safe pregnancy and birth!



21. POSITIVE PARENTING, ABCDEFG: Attitude, Being Present, Communication, Development, Expectations, Failure & Forgiveness, God & Grace.



23. ALWAYS BE CHASTE



22. THE "NO TOUCH" RULE: Shout "No!" and run away. Tell an adult.



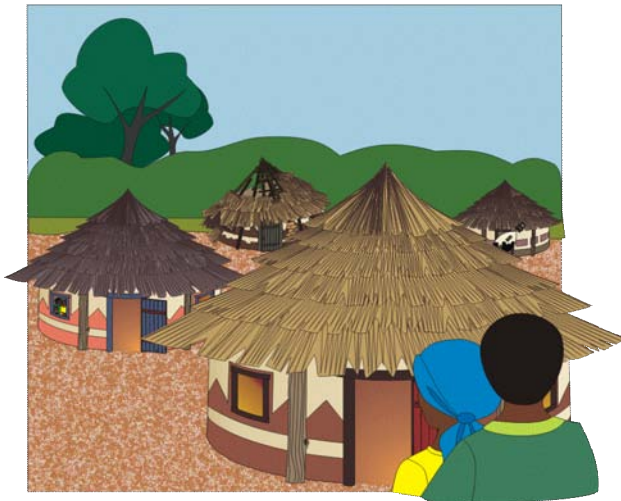
24. THE GOLDEN COIN: Save your "coin" for marriage; don't give your precious coin away.



25. SECONDARY VIRGINITY: Picking up the coin again.



27. BROKEN HOUSES: What must be fixed in our house in order to make it happy and secure again?



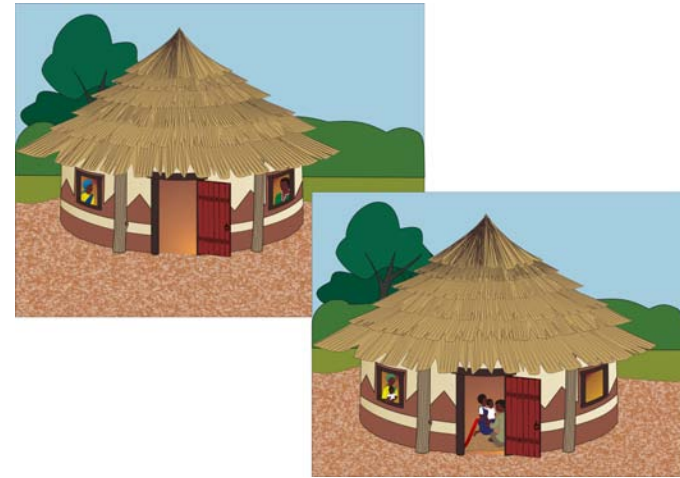
26. CULTURE AND THE HOUSES AROUND US: What cultural influences affect our house?



28. GOD'S HOUSE OF MERCY: God welcomes us, forgives us and redeems us in His house of mercy.



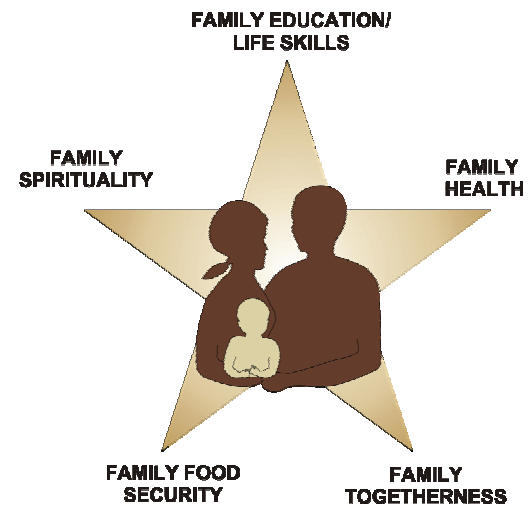
29. A CLOSER LOOK AT VALUES: What do we want to impart to our family?



31. AN EMPTY HOUSE: How do we respond to the pain of infertility?



30. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



32. A STAR WITHIN THE HOUSE: What leads to a happy and successful family life?

A Prayer for a Faithful House

“Lord, as we build our own Faithful Houses, we turn to the house you have shared with us, your house of divine mercy. In your house, we can always take refuge. In your house, we find the strength to follow your son Jesus: He who was most chaste; He who was most good; He who bore all things for love of us. As we have found love and mercy in you, may we be loving and merciful with one another so that in all ways your house may shine in our own.”