

I want to have a good family for the Lord

(Lesson One: God's original plan for the family)

I. The first family *Read Genesis 2:18 and 20-24*

1. According to verse 18, What did Adam need?
2. Is it good for man to be alone?
3. In forming a home, what should the man do regarding his father and mother according to verse 24?
** Of course this doesn't mean that he should abandon father and mother, but rather, that his primary ties will shift from his parents to his wife.*
4. Who should he be joined to?
5. What will they become?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever known of a husband or wife who emotionally did not "leave" the parents when they married? (No names please!) What are some problems that occur when a man is still a "mamma's boy" after marriage, or if a woman goes "running to daddy" every time there is a problem?
2. Is it good for a married couple to live with parents on a long-term basis?



II. Jesus restates God's plan from the beginning *Read Matthew 19:3-9*

1. What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus?
2. Since God has made husband and wife one flesh, what should man not do according to verse 6?
3. Why did God tolerate the giving of certificates of divorce under the law of Moses?
4. What sin does one commit who divorces his wife and marries another except for fornication?
5. According the last part of verse 8, since when was this God's desire for man and woman?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. What are some things in this portion of scripture that let you know that God considers divorce to be a very serious matter?
2. It is sometimes difficult to know how to advise those who have already been divorced. As unmarried young people, you can avoid these problems by marrying someone in the first place you can live with all your life. What are the three most important factors you can take into consideration, that will help you stay married for your whole life? Think of scriptural principles that can be applied.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

III. God's order in the home *Read Ephesians 5:22-30*

1. Who is the head in the home?
2. What should be the attitude of the wife towards her husband?
3. Whose example should he follow in being the head?

** More on these topics in following lessons.*

Read Ephesians 6:1,2 , Proverbs 6:20-23 and answer the following questions

1. How should children respond to the authority of their parents?
2. Why should they do that?
3. According to Deuteronomy 21:18-21, what should be done to rebellious children?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. What does Deuteronomy 21:18-21 tell you about how God considers rebellious children?
2. How often do you tell your parents you're sorry when you disobey or cause them problems?
a. Often? b. Sometimes? c. Rarely? d. Never?
3. How well do you listen to your parents when they are correcting you?
a. Listen attentively? b. Squirm? c. Scowl? d. Talk back
4. Which of the following forms of rebellion tempts you the most when dealing with authority?
a. "Testers"- Try to test boundaries
b. "Back talkers" Always whine, complain, give excuses and justification
c. "Slow motion" obedience - Reluctance to do chores, so you do them very slowly.\n
- d. "Deafness" - Act like we don't hear. Let parents' message go in one ear and out the other
e. "Delayers" - I'll obey one of these days
5. Do children who rebel this way with their parents often respond that way with God?
6. List on the other side some things you think you can do to improve your relationship with your parent

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(Lesson 2: Preparing for marriage)

Intro. As much as you might like to deny it, you are now (even you 10 year olds) preparing for marriage. You need to start thinking of it!



I. The main goal *Read Matthew 6:33*

1. What should we seek first?
2. According to 2 Peter 3:13, What should we be looking for?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Can we seek first the kingdom and look to go to heaven even as we choose a companion for life? Why is this important?
- b. How can the wrong companion hinder us from going to heaven?
- c. How can the right companion help us go to heaven?
- d. Why would marrying a lost person show that heaven is not our primary goal?
- e. What are some things that distract Christians from this goal and make them marry someone who really won't help them go to heaven? Make a short list
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - e. _____
- f. List some things you can do to help you avoid being distracted and remember this goal of marrying someone who will help you go to heaven.
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - iiii. _____

II. Don't rush things! *Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

1. Is every time a good time for marriage? When would **not** be some good times for it?
** Illustration: If you could buy just one automobile that would have to last your whole life, would you buy one after looking at it for 5 minutes? How would you check it out?*

THOUGHT QUESTIONS:

- a. How long do you think you should know someone before marriage? (There's no exact answer to this, but discuss it anyway.)
- b. Though it is wrong to rush into marriage, is it also possible to be a perfectionist when looking for a spouse?

III. Marry to give, not to receive *Read Acts 20:35*

PLEASE READ THIS THOUGHT

A. Everyone can be generally be divided into two categories: (1) Those who are primarily givers and (2) Those who are primarily takers. A marriage composed to two "takers" will not last long at all. A marriage composed of a "taker" and a "giver" may last with difficulty if the "giver" is able to influence the other. A marriage of two givers will be long lasting and happy.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. What are some things that may indicate that a prospect for marriage is a giver?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
- b. What are some things which may indicate that a marriage prospect is a taker?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____

** If you realize that your "boyfriend/girlfriend" is a "taker" break up with them immediately!*

- c. What can you do to fight your "taker" tendencies and become more of a giver?

IV. Keep yourself pure! Read I Timothy 5:22

**Until you are married, sex, or actions leading to sex are wrong. Sex outside of marriage by definition is the sin of fornication.*

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Comment on the following keys to maintaining purity in a boyfriend / girlfriend
 1. **Remember ugly consequences of fornication!** What are some?
 2. **Be busy in wholesome activities:** Why is it dangerous to not have much to do?
 3. **Flee fornication** (Read I Corinthians 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:22)
 - a. Would that mean avoiding pornography, R movies (some PGs and PG-13s), vulgar TV shows, MTV, etc.?
 4. **Have rules with your boyfriend/girlfriend.** Example: hold hands only.
 - a. good rules: avoid passionate kissing, watch your hands, etc.
 5. **Pray!**
 6. **Be patient.** There is a time for physical relations between a man and woman.
Youth is a time for many great things, but not for these relations.

Conclusion: Pray! Now is a good time to begin to pray to God to help you find a good companion for life if you haven't already started. Have a prayer now that God will help you to find a good Christian companion who is a giver.



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(Lesson 3: Good Husbands)

Introduction: Guys should study this lesson thinking of what they want to be as a husband. Young ladies should study it thinking of what they should look for in a prospective husband.

I. Husbands should be the head of the home ! *Read Ephesians 5:23,24*

1. Husbands are head of the wife as Christ is head of what?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Have you ever seen husbands who refused to be the head of family? (no names please!) What are some problems caused when a husband refuses this task?
- b. Some men always go around constantly complaining that they are the head of the house and that no one will "do what they say.". They seem to have missed the keys of leadership. A real leader doesn't have to always remind others that he is the leader. He just is. What are some qualities a man should have if he wants to be a true leader?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

II. Husbands should love their wives! *Read Ephesians 5:25-30*

1. How should husbands love their wives according to verse 24?
2. What did Christ do for the church?
3. According to verse 28, how should husbands love their wives?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Have you ever seen a grumpy, "macho", husband who is a taker? What in these verses condemns such an attitude? What are some problems caused by such selfishness?
- b. What are ways husbands can show they love their wives as their own bodies and as Christ loved the church. Think of specific ways around the house, etc.

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____



** The opposite of love is selfishness. Takers are selfish, givers are loving. Truly loving husbands are more concerned with the needs of their wives, than their own. This includes physical needs (1 Cor. 7:3-5).*

III. Husbands should be patient with their wives! *Read I Peter 3:7*

1. How should husbands live with their wives according to this verse?
2. How should they give honor to them?
3. What will be hindered if husbands don't comply with this command?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Have you ever seen a husband that constantly criticizes his wife for being overweight, not cooking to please him, etc.? How does that kind of husband look to others? Have you ever seen a husband who constantly praises his wife? Which type of husband is happier?
- b. What are some specific ways husbands can honor their wives in front of others?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

** Men and women are different. The selfish, taker husband blows up and lets all the differences and weaknesses of his spouse bother him. The loving, giving husband learns to be patient with the differences and \ weaknesses. He hides the weaknesses and proclaims her strengths.*

IV. Husbands should provide for the home *Read I Timothy 5:8*

1. In what spiritual condition is one who does not provide for his own?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. What are some things young men can do now to prepare themselves to provide well?
**. Though this text refers specifically to providing material things, it is even more important that the man provide spiritual food.*
- b. Who has more responsibility to teach the Bible to children, the church or the father?
What can a father do to make sure his family receives good Bible teaching

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

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(Lesson 4: Good Wives)

Intro. Young ladies should study this lesson thinking of how they hope to be for their families. Guys should be thinking of looking for these qualities in the person they marry.

I. Good wives learn to love their husbands *Read Titus 2:4*

1. What attitude does God command women to have towards their husbands?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

* Sometimes women (and men) say, "I can't love him" (or her). Would God command what is impossible? Part of the problem is that many think only of emotional love. And yet God said that we can even love our enemies (Matt. 6:44).

a.. What are some things we can do to love our enemies, even husbands (or wives) who cause us grief? (What does God do to love us even though we are often unworthy?)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

* Love, especially in the "AGAPE" sense, involves the desire to serve and look out for the best interests of others. Husbands and wives can determine to love in that sense, even when mistreatment makes a more emotional affection difficult

b. What should a husband (or wife) who claims, "I can't love my spouse", do?

hint: What should every sinner do when he sins? (Acts 8:22)

II. Subjection to husbands *Read Ephesians 5:22-24,31, Col. 3:18*

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

a. Does the subjection of women to their husbands mean they are inferior?

b. Who is the best example of subjection to others though not inferior?

Read Luke 2:51, John 5:18 and I Corinthians 15:28

c. What are some ways a wife can show she is **not** in subjection?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

d. If a husband tells his wife she cannot attend worship services, how should she respond?

e. Why should the fact that a women should subject herself to her husband make every single Christian woman very careful in choosing a mate?



III. Keepers at home *Read Titus 2:5*

1. After Paul says that women should be discreet and chaste (pure), what does he say they should be?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

a. There is controversy about women working outside of the home in light of this text. While it is improbable that it condemns work out of the home in and of itself, it certainly shows where her priority should be. What should a woman's priority be, her career or her home?

b. What are advantages that come when a woman can dedicate all or most of her time to her family and home?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

IV. Contented and modest in behavior *Read I Peter 3:1-6*

1. How can unbelieving husbands best be won to Christ?

2. What should **not** be a Christian women's primary beauty concern?

3. Where should she most be concerned about being beautiful?

4. What kind of spirit is very precious in God's eyes?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

a. Do these verses describe the way society today thinks women ought to be?

b. Think of women who try to rebel against these principles and try to be boisterous, pushy, brassy and wear wild immodest clothing. Will they ever find out what life is about? Will they ever be truly fulfilled and happy and know God this way?

c. Think of women you know (perhaps in the congregation where you are a member) who obey these principles and are pleasant, contented, modest and in subjection. Are they happy? Do they know God and what life is really about

d. Young ladies, which type of person do you really want to be like? (the "b" woman or the "c" woman?)

e. What are some ways Christian women can become contaminated with worldly concepts of what a woman ought to be and lose sight of God's concept?

A good family for the Lord

(Lesson 5: I want to be a good parent!)

RESPONSIBILITIES GOD GIVES TO PARENTS:

I. Provide a good atmosphere for spiritual upbringing *Read Ephesians 6:4*

1. What should parents raise their children in?
2. According to Matthew 6:33, What should we seek first in every aspect of our lives?
** This means that in a Christian home the kingdom of God should come before everything else: athletics, school work, social activities, etc.*

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. When are some occasions that parents may be tempted to let their children put school, athletics, social activities, etc. before spiritual activities involving the kingdom?
- b. Why is such very harmful in our efforts to teach children that God comes first?

II. Teach them the scriptures *Read Deuteronomy 11:19 and II Timothy 1:5*

1. What were some occasions that Jews were to use to talk of the scriptures to their children?
2. From what time of life did Timothy know the scriptures?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Why is it very important that you plan to have family Bible study in your home?
- b. Is it primarily the church's obligation or yours to teach your children?

Suggestions for when you have children:

- * Plan to have short (10-15 minute) Bible study most days .*
- * Buy Bible story books for them, read them to them and ask lots of questions based on what has been read.*
- * Children should learn to pray. Teach them!*
- * Begin reading Bible stories to them when they are born! I'm not kidding! How wonderful it will be if your child's first memories include your reading Bible stories to them.*

III. Praise them when they do well! *Read Philemon 4, 5, I Thessalonians 1:3*

1. What good qualities did Paul praise Philemon for?
2. What good qualities did he praise the Thessalonians for?
** Jesus, Paul and other Christians knew the great importance of praising the good qualities of those they were trying to help. How important it is for us to learn this lesson with our children!*

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. It is important to praise children for good grades and other accomplishments, but even more important to praise them for doing good spiritually. What are some spiritual accomplishments we need to watch for to praise our kids for them?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- iiii. _____

IV. Teach them to work: *Read I Thessalonians 4:11; II Thessalonians 3:10*

1. According to Paul, what should we learn to work with?
2. If we don't learn to work, neither should we do what?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. What are some problems that come with giving kids everything they want without making them learn to work?
- b. What are some chores you can give very small children? children between 6 and 10? children between 11-13? children from 14 years and up?



V. Correct them when they do wrong *Read Proverbs 13:24, 22:15 and 29:15*

1. According to Proverbs 13:24, what about the person who spares the rod?
2. What is the instrument of punishment specified in these verses?
** A rod can be compared to a switch, a little branch.*
** A rod (switch) has many advantages. It stings, without damaging the body.*

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- a. Have you seen parents lightly "spank" children with their hands on puffy diapers and the kids run away laughing? Why is such punishment not effective? Why is it necessary for punishment to be truly unpleasant

b, * *I think the rod should be used only for serious cases of rebellion but it should be used instantly in such cases.*

Which of the following do you think are cases of rebellion which would require the rod (switch) and which are simply show a lack of attention and therefore require less drastic measures (standing in corner, no TV, nintendo, etc.)? Answer yes or no to each one.

*. he says "no" to his parents

* He deliberately uses bad words

*. he forgets his memory verse

* He refuses to obey an order from parents

*. he talks back with sarcasm to his parents

* He loses his Bible lesson book

*. he leaves his room messy

* He deliberately makes noise at services

B. AVOIDING ABUSE *Read Colossians 3:21*

1. According to Colossians 3:21, what should parents avoid?

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

a. Think and talk about the following points given to avoid child abuse. Why or why not do you think they are good points? Read them and discuss them

* Never strike a child in the face. God made a place for the switch. Apply there.

* Never strike a child because you are angry. Rather apply the rod because you love him.

* Never humiliate the child in front of others. If he needs punishment, take him to a private place to apply it.

* Punishment should never be haphazard, a slap here, an ear pulling there, etc. Instead it should be a "great event". You should take your time to get the switch, explain why you are doing what you are doing and then apply calmly but firmly.

* If you threaten a child with punishment, follow through. Don't keep on threatening him and do nothing.

b. When should you begin to punish a child for disobedience? 6 months? one year?

* *I think you should begin when they have obviously learned the meaning of the word "no" and rebel against it.*

Conclusion: Start praying now that God will help you be a good parent!

OBLIGATIONS OF CHILDREN (Discuss if there is time)

I. Obey their parents - Ephesians 6:1

1. Why should they obey their parents

2. Deut. 21:18-21 gives the death penalty for older, rebellious children!

II. Honor their parents - Ephesians 6:2

1. What are some ways they can do that?

III. Be givers with their parents (Matthew 7:12)

1. Why do some children look upon their parents as someone to receive from?

IV. Take care of their parents when they are old (1 Timothy 5:16)

