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Marriage and the Home



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

Marriage and the Home

by Rex Jackson

*Developed in Cooperation With
the Global University Staff*

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First, Let's Have a Talk

From Your Study Guide Author

What do you expect to get out of this course? How will it help you? Many students take it in preparation for marriage. Young couples find in it time-tested rules for developing a happy home. Parents and children learn to appreciate each other more as they study the basic principles of good family relationships. And counselors can find in these pages a wealth of good practical advice to pass on to others.

There is something in this course for everyone, so study it well and find the parts that meet your own particular needs.

Of course, just knowing the right thing to do won't help you unless you do it. How much good you get out of these lessons will depend on how much you put into practice the parts that apply to you.

Your Study Guide

This book is a pocket-sized workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have five or ten minutes free. Try to do at least a lesson a week.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lessons. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example of True-False Question

2 Which statements below are TRUE?

- a** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- b** The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- d** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions or Bible books with their authors.

Example of Matching Question

3 Write the number for the leader's name (right) in front of each phrase that describes something he did (left).

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | a Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| 2 | b Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| 2 | c Marched around Jericho | |
| 1 | d Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your student report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Author

Rex Jackson graduated from Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, where he received a bachelor of arts degree, and from Kansas City University, Manhattan, where he received a master of science degree. He worked extensively in the field of journalism before his death in 1994.

Mr. Jackson served as a missionary in Nigeria for 25 years. He wrote various kinds of church-related literature, including this course and *John's Gospel*, which have been incorporated into the ICI program.

Lesson
1

What Marriage Is

Marriage is the product of a divine plan. Human beings did not think it up or invent it—God *created* it. The Garden of Eden is where He chose to institute it. Throughout His Word He upholds it. Christ’s presence at the wedding in Cana confirms it.

In this lesson we will study how the relationship of Christ to His church is reflected in every marriage built upon divine principles.

Someone has likened marriage to a *kit* which “contains all of the pieces of something that must be put together.” It requires some sanding of rough parts, some gluing, a bit of hammering, some dusting, waxing, and polishing. But the result is beautifully rewarding.

The kind of marriage that will have far-reaching effects for good is the one that is built according to the pattern and directions given in God’s Word.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Marriage: A God-given Institution

Marriage: A Special Relationship

Marriage: A Sacred Union

Marriage: Importance for the World

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain when God instituted marriage and why.
- Describe God’s plan and pattern for marriage.
- Name the far-reaching effects of the family.

MARRIAGE: A GOD-GIVEN INSTITUTION

Given by God as a Blessing for Man

Objective 1. *Explain when God instituted marriage and why.*

Marriage is the only institution, or organization, on earth today that began before sin came into the world. We read about it in God's Word, the Bible.

Genesis 2:18, 21-22. Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him." Then the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him.



For You To Do

In each of these *For You to Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have just studied. Answer each question or complete each exercise before looking at the answer we have given.

1 What is the only institution in the world that was established before sin came into the world?

.....

2 How was the first woman made?

.....

3 Who gave the first man and woman to each other in the first marriage ceremony?

.....

4 Read Genesis 2:23-24, then circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a God named Adam's companion "woman."
- b When the Bible says of a man and a woman, "They become one," it refers to marriage.
- c God did not create woman from the dust of the ground.

Given With a Pattern to Be Followed

We see that God made Eve to be a companion for Adam before sin came into the world. So we know that God Himself gave man and woman the marriage relationship as part of His perfect plan for them. Because God included marriage in the perfect conditions that He provided in the Garden of Eden, we can accept it as His pattern for all men in all times.

God is pleased to have people marry, but He has standards for marriage. He expects His people to follow these standards, to go by the pattern He gives them for marriage.

Unfortunately, sin entered the Garden of Eden. Ever since then sin has been twisting and spoiling many of the blessings that God has given man. Sin has ruined millions of marriages. If you want your marriage to be the wonderful relationship that God wants you to enjoy, follow the pattern that He gives you in His Word, the Bible.

Today, as never before, there is an attack on the institution of marriage and the home. Many would even do away with marriage altogether and substitute temporary arrangements for living together without being married. These arrangements can then be ended whenever either party desires. In many parts of the world, two-thirds of the marriages end in divorce. This is totally contrary to God's pattern given in His Word. He desires that your marriage be a relationship in

which He can express His love for you. This can happen only as you honor Him, by seeking His guidance and following His pattern.

The Bible gives us much teaching about marriage and the home. Some of you who are studying this course have not yet married. Let God guide you in your plans for marriage. Those of you who are already married will find that this course can help you make your marriage better and happier.



For You To Do

5 What has ruined millions of marriages?

.....

6 Where can you find the best pattern for a happy marriage?

.....

Given to Teach Spiritual Truths

The kind of marriage that God has planned for you is a picture of the love, respect, union, and companionship between Christ and His church. In the Old Testament God calls Himself the husband of His people. In the New Testament the church is called the bride of Christ.

Ephesians 5:31-33. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.” There is a deep secret truth revealed in this scripture, which I understand as applying to Christ and the church. But it also applies to you: every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband.



For You To Do

7 Circle the letter in front of each characteristic you would expect to find in a home where the teachings of Ephesians 5:31-33 are honored.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a) Peace | d) Strife |
| b) Discontent | e) Understanding |
| c) Anger | f) Joy |

8 Will you pray that God will help you to build the kind of marriage that will reflect His love?

.....

MARRIAGE: A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

Belonging to Each Other for Life

Objective 2. Describe God’s plan and pattern for marriage.

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman that legally and morally binds the two together for life and excludes intimate relationships with all others. In this way a home can be established and a family maintained. When a man and woman are united in marriage, “they become one.”



For You To Do

9 Marriage is

- a) temporary legal arrangement which can be dissolved at any time.
- b) permanent union of a man and woman before God.

10 A man and woman are bound together both

..... and in marriage.

Love and Companionship

God said that it was not good for man to be alone. He took a bone from man and made woman to meet his need for companionship.

Matthew Henry wrote that God didn't take a bone from Adam's foot so that he could trample on his wife. He didn't take a bone from his head so that his wife could rule over him. God took a rib from Adam's side, from close to his heart, so that man would love his wife, protect her, and keep her by his side.

The happiness of a marriage depends on the love and companionship between husband and wife. Eve was a part of Adam. Husband and wife become a part of each other. Their lives are joined into one life and neither is complete alone. Ephesians 5:28 says, "Men ought to love their wives just as they love their own bodies."



For You To Do

11 The happiness of a marriage depends on

- a) having enough money to enjoy life.
- b) the husband being master of the home.
- c) the relationship of love and sharing between the husband and wife.

Parenthood

Marriage usually brings the relationship and responsibilities of parenthood to a man and his wife. Their marriage forms a home and family where children can be born and have the love and care of a father and a mother. God's words to Adam and Eve show that parenthood is part of His plan: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28, KJV).

When children are born into a family, the parents have the responsibility of caring for them and providing a stable and harmonious homelife. God is very concerned that children be given the proper setting in which to grow and come to know Him. Read Mark 10:13-16, which will help you understand Jesus' attitude toward children.



For You To Do

- 12** Circle the letter before each of the TRUE statements.
- a** Children need to have a stable home in which to grow.
 - b** God's plan for marriage does not concern itself with children.
 - c** Jesus specifically mentioned His love for children.
- 13** What do children need to receive in a home?
-

MARRIAGE: A SACRED UNION

Objective 3. Explain the design behind the ideal marriage relationship.

One Man and Woman

There were no other people in the world besides Adam and Eve. Someone might think that God should have given Adam more than one wife so that the world could be populated more quickly. But God, who always knows best, gave him only one wife. This was God's design; this was God's ideal for marriage. Therefore, in the ideal marriage God provided one wife for one man.

Matthew 19:5-6. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one." So they are no longer two, but one. Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together.



Jesus said that a man and woman would become one. Regardless of customs, this is the Bible teaching. In some parts of the world, custom permits a man to marry more than one wife. In one country it is the custom for a woman to marry more than one man. In another area, all of the sons of one family marry the same woman. And among some people the husbands trade wives. Some people divorce and remarry time after time. Others just live together without getting married. So, you see, customs do not offer you a practical guide for the right kind of marriage. For that you have to go to God's Word.



For You To Do

14 According to the Bible, God’s model or ideal for marriage provides wife for man. The thus joined make up the basic family unit.

God’s Laws About This Union

Jesus taught that nothing should break this union, or oneness, of a man with his wife. When God gave Moses the laws that we call the Ten Commandments, He included laws against sins which would destroy the union of man and wife:

Exodus 20:14, 17. Do not commit adultery. Do not desire another man’s . . . wife.

Either marriage partner who has sexual relations with another person commits adultery and is breaking God’s law. This is immoral. Even wanting someone else’s wife or husband is a sin. “But now I tell you: anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her is guilty of committing adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:28). The New Testament also reinforces God’s warning against immorality. Marriage is to be honored by all, and husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery (Hebrews 13:4).



For You To Do

15 Memorize Hebrews 13:4. When you think you know it well, write it down; then check it with the verse in this lesson, or in your Bible.

MARRIAGE: IMPORTANCE FOR THE WORLD

Objective 4. *Name the far-reaching effects of the family on the local church, the community, the nation, and the world.*

Looking back over this lesson you can see that marriage is part of God’s plan for mankind. When we follow God’s teaching and pattern for marriage, we have a happy home. Our experiences in the home will help us understand better many spiritual truths.

God’s purpose is that husband and wife, parents and children, find in the family the love, companionship, and care that each one needs.

He has also established the family as the basic unit of society. His laws set the moral standards that men and women are to live by. Those who come from happy homes where they have learned to live together peaceably, will find this helps them in getting along with others. Communities, which are held in high respect, are made up of families who are honorable and upright. Good families make good communities, and good communities make good nations.

How important it is, then, for each family to accept God’s standards and go by His rules for happiness! How important to guard against the things that would ruin the home! And how important it is for you to learn what God has to say about your family and your home! God bless you as you study and put into practice what you learn in each lesson.



16 The basic unit of society is the

- a) school.
- b) church.
- c) family.

17 In your notebook list at least two far-reaching effects of a happy home.

Why not take time just now to pray for your home and all the members of your family. Ask God to make your home a real influence in the community. He can help you put into practice what you learn in this course.

Now think of all the students around the world who are studying these lessons in different languages. Pray that God will bless them and help them to have the kind of home He wants them to have.



Check Your Answers

The answers to your study questions are not given in the usual order, so that you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 9 b) permanent union of a man and woman before God.
- 1 Marriage.
- 10 legally, morally.
- 2 From Adam's rib.
- 11 c) the relationship of love and sharing between the husband and wife.
- 3 God.
- 12 Statements **a** and **b** are true.
- 4 Statements **b** and **c** are true.
- 13 The love and care of their mother and father.
- 5 Sin.
- 14 one, one, two.
- 6 In the Bible.
- 15 Write down the verse you have memorized; then check it.
- 7 a) Peace
e) Understanding
f) Joy
- 16 c) family.
- 8 Your answer.
- 17 Those coming from happy homes find it easier to get along with others; good families make good communities, and good communities make good nations.

Lesson
2

Before Marriage

God's standards of right and wrong are intended to make His sons and daughters fit and able to live life to the fullest. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 reminds us that a runner undergoes strict discipline in order to be physically fit for a race. Because he runs to obtain a prize, he denies himself certain *immediate* pleasures that he may receive a far greater one.

In the relationship between a man and woman, God's standards are not meant as ways of denying them pleasure, but of directing them to the greatest pleasure possible. God created man with natural appetites, some of which find expression in the sexual union, but His Word affirms that these intimacies are to be reserved for marriage.

Generally a husband and wife, whose lives are characterized by discipline and unselfishness, adopt these patterns of behavior *before* marriage. Others, who before becoming man and wife, indulge in immediate pleasure at the cost of moral restraints, carry scars that may never heal.

In this lesson we will study how those who treat God's laws lightly are denied the greater pleasure, the better prize God has in store for them.



In this lesson you will study . . .

God Prepares You for Marriage
God Expects You to Keep Pure
You Can Keep God's Standards

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain what God's moral standard is for a man and woman before marriage.
- Name some of the ill effects in lives of those who disregard this standard.
- Give the scriptural basis for ways to keep oneself pure.

GOD PREPARES YOU FOR MARRIAGE

Objective 1. *Explain what God's standards are for a man and woman before marriage.*

When God created the human race, He made man and woman according to His own perfect plan. He made provision for family life. He formed the human body in such a way that children could be born from the sexual union of a man and woman.

God also built into the body of the child a process of development which would prepare it in due time for the responsibilities of an adult.

As boys and girls pass from childhood into youth, many changes take place in their bodies. With these physical changes come new interests, feelings, and desires. The boy begins to take an interest in girls. The girl is attracted to boys. There is nothing wrong with this. It is just a part of God's plan to prepare them for marriage.

Genesis 1:27. He created them male and female.

However, it is very important for young people to understand that God has standards for their behavior before marriage—rules that they must follow if they expect to have a happy home later on.



For You To Do

1 Is it wrong for a young man to feel attracted to a young woman? Explain your answer.

.....

.....

2 Who gave us the sexual urge?

.....

.....

3 Who has the right to say how the sexual urge must be used?

.....

GOD EXPECTS YOU TO KEEP PURE

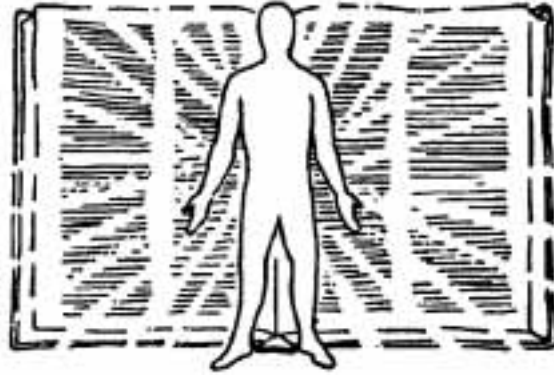
For God to Live in You

Objective 2. *Explain the three reasons why God wants you to respect the body He has given you.*

God wants you to respect the body that He has given you and treat it in a way that will honor Him. You are to keep it clean both physically and morally for three reasons:

- For God to live in you.
- For the sake of your family.
- For the sake of your health.

Since you belong to God, you have become God's temple or dwelling place. This means that you have a solemn responsibility to keep your body sacred, for God's Spirit lives in you (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). And while you have other responsibilities as a Christian, such as to your family and to yourself in terms of your own health, your primary responsibility is to maintain yourself as a holy, pure, and sanctified vessel appropriate for God to dwell in.



1 Timothy 5:22. Keep yourself pure.

The Bible warns young men against going after prostitutes or loose women. It absolutely forbids sexual relations outside of marriage, homosexuality, and other forms of sexual perversion. Read carefully 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, 19.

Notice some of the consequences that result when principles of purity are ignored. First, immoral persons often contract venereal disease. Not only does this result in the loss of health and cause shame; it may also result in permanent defects that are transmitted from those who have become infected to their children, causing blindness, mental illness, and other serious physical defects.

Where immorality results in pregnancy, the young woman may have to raise the child in great hardship outside the normal marriage relationship, without the security she would derive from a legitimate marriage union. Thus, her child would be deprived of the love and care of both parents.



For You To Do

4 Name three reasons why God expects you to keep pure.

.....

.....

.....

5 A verse in the Bible which tells us to keep pure is

- a) 1 Corinthians 6:16.
- b) 1 Timothy 5:22.
- c) Genesis 3:15.

6 According to 1 Corinthians 6:15, what is the Christian's body a part of?

.....

7 What can a Christian home provide for children, that children born outside of marriage may not have?

.....

8 Name at least two defects which children may have as a result of the immorality of their parents.

.....

For the Sake of Your Health

Don't think that lack of sexual relations before marriage will harm you. Keeping God's standards is much more important than self-indulgence. The book of Proverbs, in the Bible, has some excellent advice about this. Read carefully Proverbs 7:1-27.

Even if a person doesn't contract venereal disease, there are other threats to the health in premarital sex relations, or sex before marriage. For the woman there is always the danger of an unwanted pregnancy. And for both there is the damage to the emotions and to the health in general that comes from the sense of guilt and fear. The fear may be of pregnancy, of discovery, of other results of the affair, or of punishment for violating social moral principles or breaking God's laws.

And, of course, disobedience to God, if not remedied by repentance and spiritual renewal, brings spiritual sickness and eventually spiritual death. So, for the sake of your own physical, mental, and spiritual health, keep yourself pure.

1 Corinthians 6:18. Avoid immorality. . . . the man who is guilty of sexual immorality sins against his own body.



For You To Do

9 What specific sin mentioned in this part of the lesson is a sin against a man's own body?

.....

10 Name three things mentioned in Proverbs 7 to which the man led astray by an immoral woman is compared.

.....

.....

.....

11 How do premarital sex relations endanger the health of a person?

.....

.....

.....

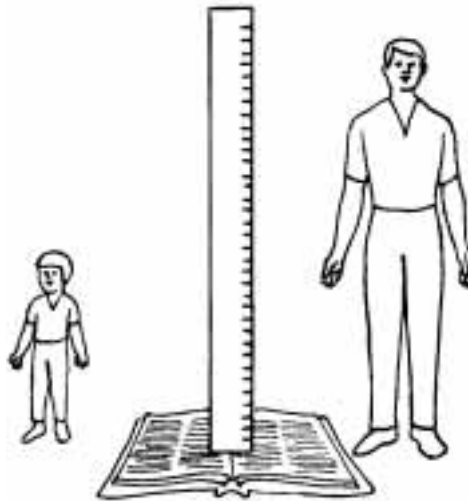
YOU CAN KEEP GOD'S STANDARDS

By Controlling Your Feelings

Objective 3. Describe the resources available to us to keep ourselves pure.

Learning self-control is a very important part of growing up. A little child may kick and scream if he can't have his way, but you have learned not to act that way. Self-control is an essential part of a happy marriage. Thus, God gives each person the opportunity throughout his adolescent years to develop it. His Word says, "Be sober, self-controlled, and orderly" (1 Timothy 3:2).

KEEP GOD'S STANDARDS



Satan especially tempts young people sexually. They experience strong sexual urges and desires. These feelings are normal in a developing body, but they must be controlled.

Don't say that you can't control your desires. God has given you a spirit that makes you different from the animals. You don't have to be a slave to your feelings. God gave you these things to help you control yourself:

- Intelligence to understand what to do.
- His Word to guide you.
- A conscience through which He speaks to you.
- A will, or the power to choose what to do.

Best of all, God Himself will help you control your desires if you ask Him to.

2 Timothy 2:22. Avoid the passions of youth, and strive for righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who with a pure heart call out to the Lord for help.



For You To Do

12 The *best* source of help in controlling your desires is

- a) your conscience.
- b) your intelligence.
- c) God's Word and His help.

By Controlling Your Thoughts

The desire to do wrong comes to us through our thoughts. The more you think about the temptation, the stronger the desire will be. So you need to control your thoughts.

James 1:14-15. But a person is tempted when he is drawn away and trapped by his own evil desire. Then his evil desire conceives and gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Many of your thoughts come from what you hear. So don't listen to dirty stories or take part in conversation that would lead you toward immoral living.

Ephesians 5:3. Since you are God's people, it is not right that any matters of sexual immorality or indecency or greed should even be mentioned among you.

Temptation also comes from what you look at. Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. He got Eve to look at it and think about how good it would taste until she finally ate it and gave some to Adam to eat. Then they were punished for disobeying God.

Satan still tempts people by getting them to look at things that will stir up lust. He uses indecent pictures, movies, sex-filled books, the dance, and suggestive fashions in clothing to tempt people. Don't let him persuade you to participate in these things.

Guard your thoughts and don't let them wander. If you find yourself thinking the wrong kind of thoughts put them out of your mind. Think of something else. Start doing something that will keep your mind busy.

Philippians 4:8. Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable.



For You To Do

13 Why is it important that you control your thoughts?

.....
.....

14 Name several things Satan uses to tempt people to sin.

.....
.....



By Overcoming Temptation

To overcome temptation you should do two things: avoid it as much as possible and refuse to give in to it when it comes to you. Don't go into places and situations that will tempt you to do wrong.

Too much familiarity between men and women may lead to temptation. So be friendly but treat people with respect and expect them to respect you.

Go by God's standards—not those of the movies—in your courtship. Learn to respect the companion you have chosen to be with. Try to develop the kind of relationship that will deepen your respect for each other and at the same time please God, and avoid the kind of familiarity that

will cause you to lose this respect and inflame your passions. Obviously, petting is like playing with fire. So avoid temptation and don't give Satan an opportunity to excite you to indulge in a "liberty" that can only lead to shame and spiritual failure.

The Bible tells us the story of Joseph, a young man who loved God. By running away from temptation, he set a good example for young people. He was a slave in the house of Potiphar. The wife of Potiphar tried to get Joseph to be her lover but he refused. One day when she and Joseph were alone in the house, she tried her best to seduce him. Joseph said: "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" When Potiphar's wife kept on insisting, Joseph ran out of the house and escaped from the temptation.

Potiphar's wife was so angry that she accused him falsely and had him put in jail. God took care of Joseph, delivered him from prison, and made him prime minister of Egypt. Thus, Joseph's high moral standard paid tremendous dividends. This example demonstrates a principle that we can count on: God blesses those who uphold His standards.

1 Peter 4:4-5. And now the heathen are surprised when you do not join them in the same wild and reckless living, and so they insult you. But they will have to give an account of themselves to God.



15 A man in the Bible who set a good example by resisting a woman's immoral advances was

- a) Potiphar.
- b) Joseph.
- c) Peter.

16 What can you do if unsaved friends and relatives make fun of you for not taking part in some of the things they do? (Use your notebook.)

17 How should members of the opposite sex treat one another, so as to avoid temptation?

.....

By True Love

True love includes respect and honor. So the man who truly loves a woman will consider her welfare and her reputation as more important than his own personal desires. True love would not want to ruin the girl's reputation or risk making her pregnant before marriage. True love demands self-control.

Don't trust too much in your own power of self-control. The wisest thing to do is to avoid temptation. So wait until after you are married for the intimate caresses that should be exchanged only between husband and wife.

Some men try to get a girl to "prove her love" by letting them do whatever they want to with her. Remember, the man who asks this doesn't do it out of true love, but out of selfish desire.

Your love for the person whom you plan to marry will also help you avoid the temptation to get involved with other men or women. You know that you can have a much happier marriage if both you and your partner wait and keep yourselves pure for each other. So even your plans for a happy marriage will help you avoid immorality.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5. God wants you to be holy and completely free from sexual immorality. Each of you men should know how to live with his wife in a holy and honorable way, not with a lustful desire, like the heathen who do not know God.



For You To Do

18 What does true love include?

.....

19 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 several times. What is the sin spoken of in these verses?

.....

By God's Help

It takes the power of God to make you strong enough to overcome temptation under every circumstance. You need God's help to control your thoughts and your actions. Unless you have His help, sooner or later sin in your heart will come out in evil thoughts and drive you into wrong behavior. "For from his heart come the evil ideas which lead him to kill, commit adultery, and do other immoral things" (Matthew 15:19). So you need to give your life to God. Ask Him to forgive all of your sins and help you to live right.

Jesus came to save us all from the power of sin. Many young people who found it impossible to live a clean life by themselves have been completely changed by the power of God. Now they live pure, happy lives.

Satan will tempt you after you are saved, but with the Word of God to guide you and the power of God to help you, you can overcome temptation.

1 Peter 4:2. From now on, then, you must live the rest of your earthly lives controlled by God's will and not by human desires.



For You To Do

20 Is it impossible to live up to God's standards for our lives? Explain your answer.

.....

.....

21 What is the very first step you must take before God can help you live right?

.....

.....

22 Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and 1 Peter 4:2 several times; then circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** You need to be saved so that Satan will no longer tempt you.
- b** Only as we depend upon God for help, are we able to overcome temptation.
- c** Because God is a God of love, nobody will be kept out of his kingdom.



- 12** c) God's Word and His help.
- 1** No, it is part of God's plan to prepare them for marriage.
- 13** Temptation comes through the thoughts, and the more you think about it the stronger it becomes.
- 2** God.
- 14** Indecent pictures, movies, books on sex, dancing, drugs, suggestive clothing.
- 3** God.
- 15** b) Joseph.
- 4** For God to live in you, for your family, for your health.
- 16** Your answer. I would pray for them, and ask God to help me live by Bible standards and be a good example.
- 5** b) 1 Timothy 5:22.
- 17** With respect.
- 6** The body of Christ.
- 18** Respect and honor.
- 7** The love and care of both parents.
- 19** Sexual immorality.
- 8** Blindness or mental illness.
- 20** In your own strength, it is impossible; with God's help, it is possible.
- 9** Sexual immorality.
- 21** Give Him your life.
- 10** An ox going to slaughter, a deer walking into a trap, a bird going into a net.
- 22** Statement **b** is true.
- 11** The person may contract venereal disease; guilt and fear resulting from these relations damage the emotions and health in general.

Lesson

3

Choosing a Companion

How is a young man to know when he has found the right girl for his bride? How does a young woman choose the one with whom to spend the remainder of her life? God Himself, who understands better than any other the importance of choosing the right companion, has promised, “I will *always* guide you and satisfy you with good things” (Isaiah 58:11).

Prayer and an honest look at what the Bible has to say about marriage has saved many a young person from making an unhappy choice. In this lesson we will discover the importance of considering the other person’s attitudes toward life, and his or her traits and patterns of behavior. Valuable lessons will also be learned from marriages, which are built on divine principles, and those, which are not. God knows who is “right” for each of His children, and will not fail to direct those who sincerely want His will in this important decision.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Importance of the Choice
God’s Leading
Bible Standards
Personal Qualities
Circumstances
Mutual Love and Acceptance
Assurance of God’s Will

This lesson will help you . . .

- Give reasons why the choice of a companion is vitally important.
- List principles found in God’s Word by which a Christian should be guided in choosing a life partner.
- Identify the characteristics a person should look for in a companion.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CHOICE

Objective 1. Give two reasons why the choice of a marriage partner is vitally important.

The choice of the person who is to be your partner for life is extremely important. Why? There are several reasons.

First, it is important because of the influence your partner will have on your life. The person you marry will help shape your life. He or she may turn the course of your life either toward righteousness and heaven or toward sin and hell. The daily influence of your companion will either help you reach your goal of eternal happiness or will tend to pull you away from God who is the only source of true joy. The choice of your life companion will make it either easier or harder for you to love, serve, and obey God.

Secondly, this choice is important because it is for life. Christians don't get married with the idea that they can always get a divorce if they can't get along together. If you have a bicycle or a car that you don't like, you can sell it and get another one. But you can't do that with a wife or husband. The Bible teaches that marriage is for life.

Romans 7:2. A married woman, for example, is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives; but if he dies, then she is free from the law that bound her to him.

Mark 10:9. Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together.

Nor is there any such thing as trial marriage for Christians; that is, living together for a while to see how they get along before actually getting married. According to God's standards this is wrong—immoral.

Since the choice of your companion for life is so important, it should not be made hurriedly. Fortunately, God's Word gives us some basic principles to follow in making the choice so that the marriage will be happy.



For You To Do

1 Give two reasons that the choice of a husband or wife is so important.

.....
.....

2 Where can you find the basic principles to follow in the choice of a life partner?

.....

GOD'S LEADING

God's Willingness to Lead

Objective 2. Recognize five ways in which God leads us in the choice of a life companion.

If you are a child of God, you may be sure that your Father wants you to have the companion who will be the best for you.

God made Eve to be just the companion that Adam needed. God knows you and your need too. He knows you better than you know yourself and knows exactly the person that would make the best partner for you. He loves you and wants to help you.



For You To Do

So, before the choice is made, be sure to ask God to lead you very definitely to the person of His choice. Pray about it and be willing to follow the leading of the Lord. “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should pray to God, who will give it to him” (James 1:5).

3 What should you do before choosing a life partner?

How God Leads

How does God let a person know whom he should marry? God usually leads His children in this matter through a combination of ways. A Christian should look for God’s leading in all of these ways.

First, one who chooses a life partner should be sure that it is according to the principles found in the Bible. A second consideration is this: Do the personal qualities of the couple make them suited for each other? Thirdly, circumstances should work together to make the marriage possible. There should be mutual love and acceptance of each other. And finally, there should be an assurance of God’s will.



For You To Do

4 Memorize the five ways God uses to direct you in the choice of a life partner; then write them in your notebook.

BIBLE STANDARDS

Objective 3. *List principles found in God’s Word by which a Christian should be guided in choosing a life partner.*

First and most important is the way in which God leads you through His Word. In the Bible He gives you some rules to follow. You can be sure that His leading will not be contrary to His Word. Two of these rules for Christians are to (1) marry a Christian and (2) be sure you agree.

Marry a Christian

Those who have already formed their homes have moral obligations to their companions, Christian or non-Christian. But if you are single and a Christian you can be sure that God does not want you to marry an unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 6:14. Do not try to work together as equals with unbelievers, for it cannot be done. How can right and wrong be partners? How can light and darkness live together?

We read in the Bible about two promising young men who made the mistake of marrying wives who didn’t believe in God. They were Samson and Solomon. Samson was attracted to a young woman who was not of his religion. His parents advised him to marry one of his own people, but he would not listen to them. His first marriage was a terrible failure from the very start. But still he would not follow God’s standards. His second serious involvement with an unbeliever led to personal tragedy and death. King Solomon, too, was led away from God by an unbeliever, Pharaoh’s

daughter (1 Kings 3:1). And from this crucial mistake he was led to take many heathen wives and to support idolatry, a move that brought God's judgment upon his kingdom (1 Kings 11:1-11).

So, be careful in your friendships. There is always an attraction between sexes. Don't let this lead you into courtship with an unsaved person. Choose your close friends among Christians. Don't let Satan sidetrack you from God's will and ruin your life by getting you bound in marriage to an unbeliever.



For You To Do

5 Circle the letter in front of the names of the two young men who met tragedy by marrying women who did not serve God.

- a) Abraham
- b) Solomon
- c) Noah
- d) Samson

6 Memorize 2 Corinthians 6:14; then have some-one listen to you, to see if you recite it correctly.

7 What is the message of 2 Corinthians 6:14 to a Christian?

Be Sure You Agree

While it is important to marry a Christian, there are also other things to consider. The Bible teaches that you can't have a happy home unless you agree on certain things.

Disagreements over religion can make a home very unhappy. You and your companion should agree on the place that God will have in your life, how you will serve Him, what church you will attend, and what religious training you will give your children. Doctrinal differences sometimes divide a home. For each to go to a different church is a poor way to start a home.

No two persons will agree perfectly on everything; you shouldn't expect that. But husband and wife should agree on basic principles.

Do you and the person that you hope to marry agree on Bible standards for your home? how to discipline children? the responsibilities of husband and wife? how to handle your money? If not, be careful. You may be headed for trouble.

These lessons will help you have a happier home, as both of you study God's instructions and agree on the standards He gives you in His Word.



For You To Do

8 In your notebook, name at least four things about which you and the person you marry should agree.

9 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** If a husband and wife are Christians, we can assume that they will have a happy home.
- b** A man and woman who plan to establish a Christian home should agree on basic principles.
- c** It is possible for a husband and wife who are Christians to agree perfectly on all matters.
- d** It is important that a husband and wife agree on Bible standards for their home.

10 What do you think is the best time for a couple wishing to establish a home to learn whether or not they agree on basic principles?

- a) In the first year of marriage
- b) After their engagement
- c) Before their engagement

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Importance of Qualities

Objective 4. *Identify the personal qualities a husband or wife should have.*

What are the qualities that you would like to find in the person you marry? Some young men say: “the girl I marry must be beautiful, talented, and educated. She must come from an important and well-to-do family.”

Some of these things may be desirable, but none of them guarantees a successful marriage. In fact, a young lady who is beautiful may be proud and vain because of her beauty. She may even use her beauty to attract men after she is married.

A girl from a wealthy family may expect her young husband, who is just getting started in his work, to provide many things he cannot afford.

Beauty, education, and a good social position can be assets, but there are other more important qualities such as character, similar interests, good habits, and good health.



For You To Do

11 Name two qualities which don't necessarily make the marriage a happy one.

Personal Character

What kind of person do you want to live with all the rest of your life—pleasant or complaining? Friendly or quarrelsome? Patient or easily upset? Kind or domineering? Generous or selfish? Trustful or suspicious?

Are you looking for someone with a good reputation or a questionable one? Always honest or someone who would deceive you? Hard-working or lazy? Persevering or easily discouraged? Dependable or undependable?

Character is formed and developed all through childhood. So the home of the person you are interested in may give you an idea of what he is like. The popular sayings are often true: “Like father-like son.” “Like mother-like daughter.” The child often follows the example of his father or mother.

However, God's grace can always help a Christian change his ways even though he has had very poor home training. And there are some people from wonderful homes who have refused to follow their parents' good example. So, the home may help you to look out for certain qualities, but don't base your judgment of the person's character entirely on the family that he comes from.



For You To Do

12 In your notebook, make a list of the qualities you would like your husband or wife to have.

13 Now, check yourself by the list you have made. Write “good” for the qualities that describe you, and “weak” for those you need to develop.

Pray that God will help you to develop the qualities that are essential for a good husband or wife.

Good Habits

Habits are hard to break. If a person has habits that annoy you now, don’t think that things will be better after you are married. Remember the saying, “Never marry a man to reform him.” Don’t think that you will be able to make your husband or wife over into your own patterns of behavior.

True love will make husband and wife try to adjust to each other and overlook things that aren’t really important. And in things that are important they should help one another. But don’t go blindly into marriage without even thinking what kind of habits your companion has. They can show you a great deal about his or her character and about what you can expect in the future.

Is he or she clean or dirty? Courteous or sometimes insulting? Careful of appearance or slovenly? Does he or she talk all the time or listen with interest to what others have to say? Take responsibilities to God and the church seriously? How does he or she treat his or her brothers, sisters, and parents?



Use your notebook for the following exercises.

14 Make a list of good habits that you would like to find in a life companion.

15 List some habits that you think would keep your marriage from being happy.

Check yourself on both of these lists and pray for yourself and the one you have chosen for a companion.

Similar Interests and Personalities

Would you like to live all your life with someone who is not the least interested in those things that are most important to you? Husbands and wives who are interested in the same things have much more in common and are likely to have a happier home.

Sometimes opposite characteristics are good if they complement each other. For example, someone who talks a lot might be happier with a quiet person who is a good listener. An idealistic, creative, but impractical person needs the balance of someone who is practical.

However, if husband and wife are of extremely different temperaments or personalities, they may have a hard time getting along with each other. If a young man is ambitious, hardworking, and active, he probably would not have much patience with a slow, unintelligent, lazy wife.

Eve was created to be a help suitable for Adam. God wants your companion to be suited for you, cut out for you. You should be enough alike that you will get along well together, and different enough so that you will have a well-balanced home.



For You To Do

Use your notebook for these exercises.

16 Make a list of activities that interest you. Your companion may not be particularly interested in many of them, but if he or she opposes them, this could be a cause of friction.

17 List some things that you would like to talk about. Would the person you are going to marry talk with you about these subjects?

Good Health

Good health is important not only to the happiness of the home but also for the sake of the children. You want your children to be healthy and strong, not handicapped by inherited physical or mental illness. Many countries require a medical examination and health certificate before marriage. This is to protect you and your children.

This doesn't mean that a person has to have perfect health. Some persons with physical handicaps have learned to overcome them and are good husbands, wives, and parents. Good health is not the most important quality to look for, but it should be considered. Ask yourself, will she be a good mother for my children? Will he be a good father for my children? Of course, a man should expect to marry a girl who has reached the proper age and physical development for marriage.



For You To Do

18 Why is the physical and mental health of your life companion important?

.....
.....

CIRCUMSTANCES

Objective 5. *Examine the kinds of assistance that God will provide for believers seeking a marriage partner.*

We have mentioned that God often leads through circumstances. We see this illustrated in several beautiful love stories in the Bible.

Ruth left family and home in order to serve the one true God. She went to glean grain in the harvest fields of Bethlehem and “happened” to go to the field of Boaz. God had led her. Boaz met her and could see in her all the qualities that he would want in a wife. There were some obstacles to their marriage, but God worked everything out. Everyone cooperated and they were able to get married.

One of the circumstances that God used to lead Ruth was the advice of older, more experienced people. She respected the advice of Naomi and acted accordingly. God often uses the advice of parents, pastors, and older Christians to help young people know His will.

The romance of Isaac and Rebecca was very different from that of Boaz and Ruth. They didn't see each other before Rebecca arrived for the wedding. Abraham had sent his servant to look for a

wife for his son Isaac. The servant prayed for God to lead him, and you may be sure that Abraham and Isaac were praying the same thing.

God answered prayer and brought Rebecca right to the place where the servant was praying. As he got acquainted with her and her family, the servant could see that Rebecca had the very qualities that would make her a good wife for Isaac. The whole family knew that God was leading and agreed to let Rebecca marry Isaac. They asked her if she wanted to go with the servant and become Isaac's wife. She agreed and made the long journey to his home. They loved each other and had a happy marriage.

In those homes where the parents make the choice and the arrangements for the wedding, they should pray and ask God to lead them. The same God who worked through circumstances and brought Isaac and Rebecca together still answers prayer today.



For You To Do

19 Name two couples in the Bible whom God brought together by circumstances.

.....
.....

MUTUAL LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

Objective 6. *Name the key qualities that distinguish true love from emotional or physical attraction.*

No marriage can be happy without true love between husband and wife. Mutual love gives two persons a sense of belonging to each other. It makes them want to please each other, helping them make whatever adjustments are necessary. Love binds them together more strongly than anything else can.

Love is much more than sex or physical attraction. True love includes respect, honor, appreciation, and consideration for each other. Don't mistake mere physical attraction for love. If you are not sure of your feeling, pray about it. Talk with your parents or older Christians about it.

What if the marriage is arranged by the families, like that of Rebecca and Isaac? There can't be any deep mutual love before there is an opportunity to know each other. But at least both should be willing to accept each other before they marry. Love can be cultivated, and must be cultivated. God, who is the source of all true love, will give you love for the person He wants you to marry, and He will give that person love for you.

Genesis 24:58, 67. So they called Rebecca and asked, "Do you want to go with this man?" "Yes," she answered . . . Then Isaac brought Rebecca into the tent that his mother Sarah had lived in, and she became his wife. Isaac loved Rebecca.

Of course, we are talking about marrying according to God's standards. If you are a Christian, you should not accept someone who is not a Christian even if you do feel attracted to each other.



For You To Do

20 What qualities make up the love that is the basis for marriage?

.....
.....

If you are considering marrying a certain person, check your feelings by the list you made. Is this what you feel? Does the person seem to feel the same toward you?

Pray that you will not be deceived by an attraction that is not true love. Ask God for His guidance in this important time in your life.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S WILL

Objective 7. *Point out the inner and outer signs that God uses to direct you in his will.*

God’s leading doesn’t usually come through a special revelation, but rather through the combination of ways that we have mentioned: Bible standards, the right qualities, circumstances, mutual love and acceptance, and the assurance of God’s will.

This assurance may come as a feeling of peace about the matter when you pray about it, a deep belief that it is God’s will. This shouldn’t be one-sided; both the man and the woman should pray about it and have this assurance.

God’s leading may be over a period of time. The assurance may come before or after He has led in the other ways. Or it may come sooner to one than to another. Don’t be in too much of a hurry. Test your feeling by the other ways that God uses to lead you.



Don’t worry if you don’t find anyone who has *all* the personal qualities that you are looking for. You may lack a few of the points on the other person’s list too. Whoever has to make the choice should look for the qualities that are most important for a happy Christian home. And in the meantime, you should be cultivating these same qualities in your character.

May God bless you and lead you in the ways that He sees best to the person of His choice for you.



For You To Do

- 21 God’s leading in the choice of a life companion usually comes through a
- a) combination of ways.
 - b) special revelation.



Check Your Answers

11 (Any two)

Beauty, education, social position

1 Because of the influence your partner will have on your life; the choice is for life.

12 Your answer.

2 In God's Word.

13 Your answer.

3 Pray and ask God to lead you.

14 Your answer.

4 Check your answer with the lesson.

15 Your answer.

5 b) Solomon.

d) Samson.

16 Your answer.

6 Memorize 2 Corinthians 6:14; then recite it to someone.

17 Your answer.

7 A Christian should marry a Christian.

18 For the happiness of the home and the sake of the children.

8 Check your answer with the lesson.

19 Boaz and Ruth, Isaac and Rebecca.

9 Statement **b** and **d** are true.

20 Respect, honor, appreciation, consideration.

10 I would choose c) Before their engagement, so that the disagreements may be resolved or the relationship terminated.

21 a) combination of ways.

Lesson
4

Engagement and Wedding

Usually a great deal of planning and preparation take place before people enter into a partnership in the business world. Those involved would like to be sure, before signing the final contract or agreement, that the venture will prove satisfactory and profitable.

Marriage is a tremendous gift of God to two imperfect people entering into an extremely close partnership. But to assure a relationship of mutual contentment, much planning and preparation must take place during the courtship and engagement.

It sometimes comes as a surprise to people in love that disagreements between them will arise. The best time to discover and deal with many of these is prior to marriage. In this lesson we will study ways in which couples prepare for marriage, opportunities they have for getting to know one another better, and how their lives can bring honor to God during the engagement period.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Readiness for Marriage
Engagement Customs
The Wedding

This lesson will help you . . .

- Name specific ways to honor God during the period of engagement.
- Discuss some of the problems that may arrive because of engagement customs.
- Distinguish between the purpose of the civil requirements for marriage and the religious ceremony.

READINESS FOR MARRIAGE

Objective 1. *Describe the practical benefits of the pre-marital period, in clarifying future roles and expectations.*

When a young couple should marry depends on the circumstances. Certainly both should be old enough for the responsibilities of marriage. They should be mature enough to be willing to make

the necessary adjustments and begin thinking in terms of what is best for both rather than what is best for one.

Marriage is not for immature people. The young man should know how to work, and he should have a way of supporting a wife and family. The young woman should learn to cook and take care of a home. Sometimes her role will also include a job outside the home, while his could include more household responsibility. Both should understand what their responsibilities will be in marriage, and be willing to accept them cheerfully.

Before marrying it is wise for a couple to have a place of their own. It may be a tiny rented apartment or a very simple place, but it is best that it be *their* home, not that of their parents. It is usually not a good plan for a newly married couple to live with their parents, particularly not indefinitely.

The time of engagement and wedding preparations can be a very happy time for the couple who follow the plan of God in all that they do. This can be a good time to become better acquainted with each other's families. Understanding some of each other's background can help the couple in their new life together. Starting a new home on Christian principles is one of the best ways of assuring a successful marriage and a happy home.



For You To Do

1 In your notebook make a list of principles to guide a couple in knowing whether or not they are ready for marriage.

ENGAGEMENT CUSTOMS

Objective 2. *Analyze how God unfolds His plan for a couple as they draw from His instructions for a holy union.*

Judged by God's Standards

Marriage is usually preceded by an engagement. The customs vary in different countries. There may be a celebration at which the young couple announces their intention to marry. They may exchange engagement rings or go through some other ceremony to show that they are promised to each other. Whatever engagement customs are suitable and in keeping with the standards of God can be accepted. But Christians should not follow customs that are not pleasing to God.

The Christian's principal goal in life is to honor God and please Him in all things. "Whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all for God's glory" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Christians want God's blessing on their marriage, and they honor Him in the way they celebrate their engagement. They will not make their engagement an occasion for drunken reveling, even though that may be the custom in some homes.



For You To Do

2 What engagement customs may Christians feel free to follow?

.....

3 What should be the principal goal of the Christian in every area of his life?

.....

4 Name one way an engagement celebration would bring dishonor to God.

.....

Financial Problems

In many parts of the world the young man must give a dowry, or a bride-price, to the parents of the girl he wants to marry. In other areas the parents of the girl give the dowry to the young man or his parents. This may be a large sum of money or expensive gifts. A custom practiced in other countries of the world is for the young man to give the girl a ring, or perhaps a pendant, which is a symbol or token of their engagement.

These customs may make it difficult for young people to marry if the financial burdens become too great. Additional problems arise. A young man desiring the best for his bride may go heavily into debt to purchase an engagement ring. In countries where the bride’s parents bear the expense of the wedding, they, too, may spend beyond their means, and far more than is necessary.

A young man unable to pay the required dowry may choose to disregard the law of marriage, and the couple simply lives together. Still others make no attempt to form a home, and live immoral, promiscuous lives, not confining their sexual relations to one person as God’s Word demands.

Although there are no easy answers for some of these situations, God does not make demands, which are impossible to fulfill. Certainly, Christian parents and pastors should provide needed counsel and guidance for young people who are contemplating marriage. Christian parents should realize that what matters most is not the dowry, but the Christian character of the person their son or daughter is to marry. They should not insist on a high dowry or an expensive wedding.

Of course, a young man and woman may come from non-Christian homes and consequently will not receive godly counsel from their parents. One thing they can be sure of, however, and that is God’s direction—if they purpose to honor Him. If God wills for them to marry one another, in His way and in His time, He will make it possible for them to establish a Christian home.



5 Name three possible problems which may result when couples cannot meet the demands of certain customs in their country?

.....

.....

.....

6 Fill in the blanks to complete the sentence.

Christian parents should consider

.....

.....

of more importance than the dowry or an expensive wedding.

Behavior During Engagement

The engagement can be a time for a couple to become better acquainted. They begin to discuss the responsibilities of marriage, to plan their lives together. They talk about the essential needs for establishing their home.

Sharing good times with friends, with church and family groups, is another way of getting to know one another better. The wider the range of situations in which one is able to see another person, the more he will know what that person is really like. It is one thing to see him in church but quite another to see him in social activities, and yet another to see him at work.

If love and respect is expected of husbands and wives, surely it is no less important for an engaged couple contemplating marriage. A young man and woman who love and respect one another will have an unselfish concern for the other's happiness and welfare. Each will do his part to protect and safeguard the intimacies of marriage for when they become man and wife. A marriage may be already headed for disaster if entered into by two people burdened with guilt because of liberties they have taken during engagement, or before.

The activities participated in during the time of the engagement should not bring criticism or disgrace upon God's cause. A couple honoring God will be the right kind of example to other young people. Two people who love God and one another can exercise discipline and patience in every circumstance, and later be glad that they did. Remember Jacob, who had to work seven years in payment for Rachel?

Genesis 29:20. Jacob worked seven years so that he could have Rachel, and the time seemed like only a few days to him, because he loved her.



For You To Do

7 In your notebook, list at least two benefits of the period of engagement.

How did Jacob prove his love for Rachel?

.....
.....

THE WEDDING

Objective 3. *Recognize that following God's laws includes following the laws in the land that honor Him.*

Civil Requirements

Christians will need to obtain certain documents in order for their marriage to be legal. These may include birth certificates, health certificates, and a marriage license.

It is a good testimony, proper before God and man, for a couple to meet the civil requirements for legalizing their marriage. "For the sake of the Lord submit yourselves to every human authority" (1 Peter 2:13). In this way, a man gives his wife and children the honor and protection of his name, as well as the protection of the laws of the land.



For You To Do

What documents are ordinarily required in order for a couple to be legally married?

.....
.....
.....

Church Wedding

All civil requirements must be met before the church wedding can take place. In some countries a civil ceremony must be performed prior to the religious ceremony.

In a Christian wedding the bride and groom exchange vows to one another publicly, and before God. They promise to love, honor, take care of, and be faithful to each other until death separates them. A minister speaks to them of their responsibilities, listens to their vows, pronounces them man and wife, and asks God’s blessing upon their home.

Having a church ceremony is a way of acknowledging marriage as a God-ordained institution. It shows also that the couple is looking to God for help and guidance as they begin married life and establish their home.

We have already discussed the error of going into debt needlessly. To avoid doing so may mean keeping wedding apparel, decorations, and the reception simple, perhaps even limiting the number of attendants.

Of course, a bride and groom will want to look their best. But it is possible to have a wedding that is simple and beautiful as well.



For You To Do

- 10** Civil requirements must be taken care of
 - a) before the engagement.
 - b) within the first year of marriage.
 - c) before the marriage.

11 What is one way of acknowledging marriage as a God-ordained institution?

.....

- 12** We know that a couple honor God when they legalize their marriage according to civil requirements because God’s Word says we are to submit to
 - a) every human authority.
 - b) every custom of the land.
 - c) one another.



Check Your Answers

- 7 Any two: A couple gets to know one another better; they can set a good example for other young people; they can plan for their lives together, and establishing their home.
- 1 Check your answer with the section *Readiness for Marriage*.
- 8 He worked seven years in payment for her.
- 2 Those in keeping with God's standards.
- 9 Birth certificates, health certificates, marriage license.
- 3 To honor and please God.
- 10 c) before the marriage.
- 4 By allowing drunken reveling.
- 11 Having a church ceremony.
- 5 Some live together without marrying; some lead immoral lives; some go heavily into debt.
- 12 a) every human authority.
- 6 the Christian character of the person their son or daughter is to marry.

Lesson
5

Establishing a Home

The definition in the dictionary for the word *home* is “a family’s place of residence.” But God’s standard for the ideal home far exceeds such narrow boundaries. It is made up of people who care about God and about one another, people who pray and work toward making the home conform to God’s pattern.

When two people begin their lives together as man and wife, they soon discover that many adjustments must be made. Each is a unique personality—with his own dreams, ambitions, frustrations, and needs—and individual differences are not done away with because a marriage ceremony has taken place.

In this lesson we will study about the kind of home that fulfills its purpose for being. We will consider the adjustments that confront a married couple, and ways of resolving problems that arise.



A couple who recognizes, “if the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless” (Psalm 127:1), and purposes to establish a home that will glorify God, will find the rewards immeasurable.

In this lesson you will study . . .

Importance of the Home
Necessary Adjustments
Christian and Non-Christian Homes

This lesson will help you . . .

- Discuss some of the adjustments newly married couples must make, and suggested ways for helping them make them.
- Give reasons that children need the stability of a home patterned after God’s standards.
- Describe the contrast between the Christian and the non-Christian home.

IMPORTANCE OF THE HOME

The Home Defined

Objective 1. *Define home and explain its importance to the husband and wife, children, local church, and community.*

An empty house is not a home—home is where a family lives. When God first set the pattern for family life, He gave Adam and Eve a special place to be their home: a beautiful garden, which Adam was to cultivate and take care of. God still wants every family to have a home in which all members can live together as a unit—as *one*.

One writer has said:

A home may be compared to a small government. The father is the president, and the mother is the vice-president. They help each other in ruling the home. They make good laws so that the children will have a peaceful place to live. Their laws will teach the children to live orderly and to be obedient. If the children learn to obey their parents in the home, then later they will obey their school teachers, their pastor, and their country.

A home does not need to be elaborate or costly in order to be a happy, peaceful place where family members love God and enjoy being together. The relationship between them is what matters most. And if they are to build the right kinds of relationships, they must spend time together. Home is more than just a place to eat and sleep. Because these relationships are such an important part of a home, we often use the word *home* to mean “family.”



For You To Do

- 1 Circle the letter in front of the word or words that *best* describe a happy home.
 - a) Good family relationships
 - b) Peaceful
 - c) Costly furniture
 - d) Love for God
 - e) A place to eat and sleep
 - f) Doing things together
- 2 When home is a place where children learn obedience, how does this help them later on?

.....

.....

Importance to the Husband and Wife

Objective 2. *Explain how the home serves as a nurturing refuge for the marriage relationship and a haven in which to prepare for the future of the family.*

One of God’s provisions for mankind’s happiness was a home. Husband and wife were to share their joys and sorrows, work and play, problems and success. Home is a school for parents as well as for children, where they, too, can learn patience, understanding, and consideration for others. Home is a refuge from the tensions and problems that man faces daily in his work. The love, peace, and presence of God in a Christian home refresh both husband and wife for their responsibilities outside of the home.

One of the chief functions of the home is to provide for the birth and development of children. The shared responsibilities of parenthood bring closer together that husband and wife who seek God's daily guidance for their lives. Children in the home can bring great joy and fulfillment. "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing" (Psalm 127:3).

This does not mean that God withholds His blessing from childless couples. The Bible does not give a husband the right to leave his wife, send her away, or marry another because she is childless. Nor does the Bible give the wife the right to leave her husband, if she blames him because they have no children. Whatever the reason, God is aware of the your desire for children and will guide you through this concern too. Remember Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 20–21).

The Bible gives examples of childless couples, and how God answered prayer for them. The priest Zechariah was in the temple when an angel of the Lord appeared to tell him that his prayer had been heard, and Elizabeth would have a son (Luke 1:13). Hannah prayed for a son, and God gave her Samuel, who became a mighty leader in Israel (1 Samuel 1:11-13). Many childless couples have adopted children. God blesses them as they provide a home for these little ones. A deep and lasting love can develop between children and their adoptive parents, and they can bring great joy to one another.

Psalm 113:5, 9. There is no one like the Lord our God . . . He honors the childless wife in her home; he makes her happy by giving her children.



For You To Do

3 Is your home a peaceful refuge from the tensions of the outside world? If not, what can you do to make it more peaceful? Use your notebook for your answer.

4 What is one of the chief functions of the home?

.....

5 Name two people in the Bible whose prayers God answered, and gave them children.

.....

Importance to the Child

Objective 3. *Name elements in the home that will most influence the outlook and direction of the children—in the home and the community.*

A home is extremely important for a child. He needs the love, care, happiness, and protection of a Christian home. The training received there not only shapes his character, but it affects his entire outlook on life. Whatever dangers, problems, and disappointments he may face in the world, he needs the security of his home, to know that there he is safe. There he has parents who understand him, love him, and take care of him. He belongs. A sense of security will help the child to have a well-adjusted personality. Just as what a child eats is important for his physical health and development, the love of his family is equally important for his health and lifelong happiness.

We can compare the home to a school. The parents are teachers; the children are students. Parents teach by their words and by their example. And how quickly children learn to imitate them in word and in deed! A husband and wife who live godly lives before their children need not fear to have their children follow in their footsteps. Unfortunately, there are also many ungodly parents whose children follow their pattern of living. The Bible gives us examples of both. "Like his father Manasseh, he [Amon] sinned against the Lord; he imitated his father's actions, and he worshipped

the idols that his father had worshipped” (2 Kings 21:20-21). King Jehoshaphat, however, was a good king whose early life had been influenced by godly parents.

2 Chronicles 17:3-4. The Lord blessed Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father’s early life and did not worship Baal. He served his father’s God and obeyed God’s commands, and did not act the way the kings of Israel did.

When you establish a home, if you have not already done so, may you never forget that the greatest influence in the lives of children for right or wrong is that of the parents.

In the first few years of his life, a child’s character and his lifetime habits are formed. The influence of ungodly parents will lessen the possibility of their children ever coming to know God. In fact, they may be led very far from God. But in a God-fearing home, which is ruled with love and discipline, children learn spiritual lessons they can never forget. “Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life” (Proverbs 22:6). They are taught to be God-fearing, upright, and honest, so that they can be a blessing to the world.



For You To Do

6 Describe the kind of home which helps a child develop a well-adjusted personality.

.....

.....

7 Parents teach their children both by their and by their

8 How does the home affect the character of a child?

.....

.....

Importance to the Community

We can say that a society depends on the family for its existence; that is, the family produces the members that make up that society. A good family gives the children the training that they need in order to become well-adapted members of society.

The home determines what kind of people we have in our communities. When a child is born, his first contacts are with other members of his family. His character is formed and habits are developed in the home. He learns how to treat other people. With the proper training, a child develops good habits, a sense of duty, love, loyalty, and respect for the rights of others. Much of what he learns in the small community of the home, he will practice all of his life in the larger communities of his neighborhood and his world.



For You To Do

9 What, more than anything else, determines the kind of members of society we will be?

.....

.....

NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS

Relationships of Husband and Wife

Objective 4. *Acknowledge the necessary adjustments needed in order to go from single individuals to a single unit.*

Perhaps an individual never faces more varied or greater adjustments, in his lifetime, than in marriage. For this unique relationship demands that a man and woman adjust to a whole new way of living.

God understood man's need for companionship. Companionship was one of the main purposes of the family. God looked at Adam and saw that it wasn't good for him to be alone, so He created Eve as a companion for him (Genesis 2:18).

Proverbs 18:22 says, "Find a wife and you find a good thing." Yet many, having exchanged the marriage vows without having first considered the solemn responsibility of such a commitment, come to question whether it is a good thing after all.

Two people who consider themselves mature adults may find when they marry, that they still have a lot of growing up to do. Faults to which they were blind before gradually begin to surface. A person who, before marriage, was accustomed to thinking only of what was best for himself or herself must now begin to think in terms of "What is best for both of us?"

Building a marriage is a lifetime job. It is not accomplished in the few minutes it takes for the wedding ceremony. And the more understanding a man and woman have of the responsibilities and obligations of marriage, the better prepared they will be to make the necessary adjustments.

There will come times of disagreement, and neither husband or wife should expect the other to give in all of the time. They should talk over their problems and agree on a solution. The adjustments of marriage will require all of the honesty, patience, wisdom, and unselfishness both can lay hold of.

It is sometimes difficult for either marriage partner to sacrifice his own plans and wishes, but love makes the adjustment possible. This is an essential part of marriage, and is necessary for a happy home!



For You To Do

10 What was one of the main purposes of the family?
.....

11 In what way does a person who has been used to thinking only of himself or herself need to change when married life begins?
.....

12 Mature adults, who marry understanding some of the responsibilities and obligations of marriage, will

- a) find it easy to make adjustments.
- b) be better prepared to make the necessary adjustments.
- c) find it more difficult than others to make the necessary adjustments.

Relationship to Parents

Objective 5. *Explain how letting the marriage bond have its proper place provides the best context for all other family bonds.*

Another problem that often arises is the relationship to parents. Marriage should not lessen the respect and love a couple have for their parents. It does mean leaving the close relationship that the husband and wife, as children growing up, had with their parents. Now that they are establishing their own home, the most important relationship is between husband and wife.

Mark 10:7. And for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife.

Parents sometimes forget that their married children are grown now and must have the right to manage their own lives. Parents may be able to give valuable advice when the young people ask for it, but they should not try to dictate to them how to manage their homes. And even in receiving advice, husband and wife must realize that their relationship to each other now comes before their responsibility to their parents.

A wife should not run to her parents every time there is a problem between her husband and herself. It is right for her to visit her parents from time to time, but she must remember that her home is no longer with them but with her husband. She should not be away from him for long periods of time. They need one another. Long separations may weaken the marriage, and place temptation in the way of either husband or wife.



For You To Do

- 13** Circle the letter in front of each correct completion. When two adults marry, they need
- a) no further advice from their parents.
 - b) to continue to love and respect their parents while remembering that their relationship to them has changed.
 - c) to accept the responsibility of managing their own home.
 - d) to act like grownups and not run to their parents with all of their differences.

Money Matters

One thing that often causes quarrels is money. It is good for a husband and wife to talk over all money matters. A young husband may not have a large income, and his wife must help him by saving wherever she can. Just because she is married does not mean she should make unreasonable demands of her husband. The wife should not complain if her husband cannot afford to give her all of the new clothes she would like to have. If they have to live more simply than some of their friends and neighbors, this should not make them unhappy. It is, rather, a challenge for them to make the home as happy and attractive as possible with what they has.

Of course, the husband must not expect his wife to manage the household without money, or to provide the living for the family. A woman may help with the expenses but it is the husband's responsibility, as head of the house, to provide for his family.

1 Timothy 5:8. If anyone does not take care of his relatives, especially the members of his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



For You To Do

- 14 In your notebook list at least four things which cause quarrels about money in a marriage.
- 15 What does the Bible say about a man who does not provide for his family, according to 1 Timothy 5:8?
-

CHRISTIAN AND NON-CHRISTIAN HOMES

Objective 6. *Discuss the contrasts that exist between the non-Christian and the Christian home.*

The Non-Christian Home

Many homes are far from what God intended them to be. Sin spoiled the first home. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and this brought jealousy, quarrels, and murder into their family in place of joy and love.

There are homes that resemble the ideal Christian home in many ways. The families of these homes respect and obey the laws of the land. They care about one another. The husbands provide for their families. They are good neighbors. They help the poor and needy. Many of them are church members. But the vital ingredient is missing: they have never acknowledged that they are sinners; they have never invited Christ into their lives and homes.

They are like the church to whom the angel said, "You say, 'I am rich and well off. I have all I need.' But you do not know how miserable and pitiful you are! You are poor, naked, and blind" (Revelation 3:17). This description can apply to anyone who does not recognize his need of God. Then, when the many heartaches and problems of life press in upon them, they do not have Christ's presence, peace, and help to see them through.

There are other non-Christian homes where husbands and wives waste their earnings on gambling, drugs, tobacco, and liquor. Some become such slaves to their habits that they spend their entire salary in the bars in one night, until there is nothing left with which to buy food for their families. Quarrels arise because of jealousy and hatred. Unwholesome literature and profane talk corrupt the minds of the children of these homes. At an early age they are introduced to violence, crime, and immorality. The practice of various mystical philosophies, spiritualism, witchcraft and other occultic practices, in which the members of some non-Christian homes participate, adds to the sorrow, fears, and trouble already found there.



For You To Do

- 16 Circle the letter in front of the *best* completion to the sentence. Revelation speaks of people being "miserable, poor, naked, and blind," which is a picture of
- a) all people everywhere who do not recognize their need of God.
 - b) families who lack the necessities of life because their money is wasted on liquor, drugs, etcetera.
 - c) those who have respectable and comfortable homes, but are not members of a church.

The Christian Home

A Christian home is filled with the love of Christ, and acknowledges Him as its supreme authority. The members of this home do not simply remember God on Sundays; they are taught to obey and honor Him in their *everyday* lives. God is pleased when a couple who are establishing their home accept Christ into their lives, and pray and ask Him for His guidance. But a truly Christian home does not just happen or develop automatically because people are Christians. They must work at it.

One of the ways they do this is through family worship. Before there were any churches, God taught man that each father should lead his family in worship. The man was to be a priest for his family.

Establishing family worship should still be the father's responsibility. When parents and children read the Bible and pray together regularly, they grow in the Lord, and in understanding and love for one another. This time, which some call "family altar" or "family devotions" is a very important part of a child's training.

A husband and wife who begin their marriage with family devotions, and practice this faithfully, will find their lives enriched and blessed. They will be better able to resolve whatever problems may arise, as they rely upon God's help. It is best to select a time for devotions together when other activities are less likely to interfere—perhaps before the husband goes to work, or at the close of the day. Thanking God for the food before each meal is another part of worship in the home.

1 Timothy 4:3. But God created those foods to be eaten, after a prayer of thanks.

Those families who purpose to honor God in their homes (Joshua 24:15) will be blessed of Him, and they will grow in their love and understanding for one another.

Let us look together at a paraphrased version of the Bible and what it says about the unselfish love that characterizes the ideal Christian home.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (Living Bible translation). Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.



For You To Do

17 The one who should be acknowledged as the supreme authority in the Christian home is

.....

18 What responsibility did God give to fathers before there were any churches?

.....

.....

19 The words *family altar* refer to a

- a) time when a family read God's Word and pray together.
- b) special place in a church where a family can pray together.

20 Members of a Christian home are *best* recognized by their

- a) faithful church attendance.
- b) doing what is right in their own lives.
- c) honoring and obeying God in their everyday lives.

21 In your notebook list areas of your own life which do not measure up to God's standard of love, then ask God to help you to make the necessary changes.

Now that you have completed the first five lessons, you are ready to answer the first section of your student report. Review Lessons 1–5, and then follow the instructions in your student report for filling out the answer sheet. Then return your answer sheet to the address given on the last page of the student report.



Check Your Answers

- 11** He must learn to think in terms of “What is best for *us*?”
- 1 a) Good family relationships.
 - b) Peaceful.
 - d) Love for God.
 - f) Doing things together.
- 12** b) will be better prepared to make necessary adjustments.
- 2 It helps them to obey their teachers, their pastor, and the laws of their country.
- 13** b) to continue to love and respect . . .
- c) to accept the responsibility . . .
 - d) to act like grownups . . .
- 3 Your answer. We must pray and ask for God’s help; we must be faithful in our duties in the home, so as not to add to someone else’s load; we must seek ways to help wherever possible.
- 14** Any four: Quarrels may come if money matters are not talked over; a wife complaining if they have to live more simply than others; a husband not providing for his family; a husband expecting his wife to earn the living.
- 4 To provide for the birth and development of children.
- 15** He is worse than an unbeliever.
- 5 Abraham, Zechariah or Hannah.
- 16** a) all people everywhere . . .
- 6 His parents understand him, love him, take care of him, and he feels secure.
- 17** Christ.
- 7 words, example.
- 18** Each father was to lead his family in worship.
- 8 His character and lifetime habits are formed in the home, and he learns lessons there (for good or bad) that he will never forget.
- 19** a) time when a family read . . .
- 9 Training in the home.
- 20** c) honoring and obeying God . . .
- 10** Companionship.
- 21** Your answer.

Lesson
6

Duties of a Husband

A happy young man hurried home to his parents to share with them the good news that his girl friend had promised to marry him. But the father, rather than responding as his son expected him to, asked, “Son, do you love this girl as she is *right now*, or do you love her for her potential—for what she *could* be?”

It was not until much later that, as a young husband learning to resolve disagreements in the home, this man came to appreciate the wisdom of his father’s words.

The husband’s role is compared in the Bible to Christ’s love and concern for the church—a self-sacrificing, protective role. Christ sees our potential and what He would like us to be, but He loves and accepts us as we are.

Every Christian husband has dreams and goals he hopes to see realized, finding fulfillment in a happy home. In this lesson you will recognize ways in which a man safeguards his home as he carries out His God-given roles.



In this lesson you will study . . .

To Be the Head of the House
To Love His Wife
To Take Care of His Family

This lesson will help you . . .

- Define the word *husband*.
- Identify the husband’s position in the home.
- Describe how a man can protect his home from danger by properly assuming his responsibilities as husband and father.

TO BE THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE

Objective 1. Consider how the well-being and balance of the family is dependent on the earthly head of the house—the husband.

Meaning of *Husband*

The English word *husband* comes from an old word which we might spell house-band. The word *band* here means a strip of metal or a rope used to

join or hold things together. In other words, a husband is one who holds a house together.

Today we think of the word *husband* more as the male partner of a marriage but, to a great degree, the entire household depends on the man. We sometimes refer to Christ as the head of the home, which means that His teachings are in effect in a home. But the husband is the *immediate* head of the home and responsible to see that the principles of God's Word are practiced there.

1 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV). The head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man.



For You To Do

1 Where did the word *husband* come from?

.....

.....

God-given Responsibility

Ever since God created Eve to be a helper for Adam, man—as the immediate head of the family—has been responsible to God. He must care for his family, and he must answer to God for what happens in his home.

Ephesians 5:23. For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the church.

This does not mean that a husband may treat his wife as a slave. But he must stand up for what is right. Eve ate the forbidden fruit, offered it to Adam, and he ate of it. But it was Adam, as the authority of that home, that God questioned about it. Although Adam attempted to shift the blame to Eve, they were both punished. As head of the home, the husband is to be the example in overcoming temptation, and he must so lead and teach his family that they, too, will be able to overcome. No good is ever accomplished by trying to blame another for our own failures or sins.



For You To Do

2 To what does the Bible compare a husband's authority over his wife?

.....

.....

TO LOVE HIS WIFE

Objective 2. *Consider God's mandate for the husband love his wife as Jesus loves the church—consistently and sacrificially.*

To Have a Happy Life Together

The Bible says that he who finds a wife finds a good thing. He should think of her as a blessing from God, thank God for her, and be happy with her. A married man must take time to enjoy the love and companionship of his wife, rather than spending all of his time in outside activities.

Proverbs 5:18 gives good advice for husbands: “Be happy with your wife and find your joy with the girl you married.” If a man wants to be happy with his wife, he needs to remember her good qualities and let her know that he appreciates them. If she is a good cook, it does no harm to say so. If she looks nice, why should her husband not tell her so? A husband who is constantly reminding his wife of her faults is treating her as he himself would not wish to be treated. It requires love and encouragement, of the one to the other, for a man and wife to overcome their faults.



For You To Do

3 Name at least three ways in which a husband can help to make the relationship with his wife a happy one.

.....

.....

To Love Her Unselfishly

The Bible talks a great deal about love—God’s love for us, our love for God, and our love for our fellowman. It teaches us that the love of a man for his wife is a very special love, different from any other. She is the one woman in all the world who is to be his companion until death separates them. He should love her as if she is a part of himself.

The best example of unselfish love is the love that Christ has for us, His church. He gave His life for us. The Bible says that husbands should love their wives in this same way.

Ephesians 5:25. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it.

In some places, men act as if they thought of their wives as a piece of property that they have bought. They take care of them because of the money they have spent on them. But the Bible teaches that a man should take care of his wife because he loves her.

Ephesians 5:28-29. Men ought to love their wives just as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. (No one ever hates his own body. Instead, he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ does the church.)



If a man loves his wife as much as he does himself, anything that hurts his wife will hurt him. He tries to protect her from harm and suffering and thinks of her welfare even more than he does his own.

A man can show this kind of love for his wife in many ways: by being courteous, kind, and considerate, rather than speaking harshly to her. In Colossians 3:19, we read the following: “Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” Providing for her needs, thinking of her likes and dislikes, trying to make her happy, are also ways for a husband to say, “I love you.” If a man occasionally spends money on little things to please himself, he should allow his wife to do the same. He can let her know he loves and appreciates her by taking her a gift from time to time. But remember that no gift can substitute for *time itself*.

Both husband and wife must cultivate this unselfish love for one another if they want to have a companionship that will stand the test of time and grow stronger as the years go by.

True love between a husband and wife will protect their home from many dangers. A husband who loves his wife will not seek unwholesome relationships with other women.

This kind of love may not be found at first in marriages that have been arranged by the families, but it can be cultivated. God can give this kind of love.

If problems and tensions arising between a man and wife begin to weaken their love, they need to go to God in prayer. Lives wholly committed to God, the source of all true love, can strengthen the love between the marriage partners. The more one gives himself to God, the more love God will give that person for his family, and the happier that home will be. Someone has well said: “The family that prays together, stays together.”



For You To Do

4 Memorize Ephesians 5:25 and Colossians 3:19; then recite them to someone else.

5 What can protect a home from many dangers?

.....

6 What should a husband and wife do if their love is threatened by tensions and problems in the home?

.....

.....

To Respect and Honor Her

Love produces respect and honor. A husband should never ridicule, criticize, or scold his wife in front of others. He should treat her as courteously as he did before they were married.

1 Peter 3:7 (NIV). Husbands . . . be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

This verse teaches that a man can keep His own prayers from being answered by not treating his wife as he should.



The man is the head of the home, but we might say that the wife is the heart of the home. Neither head nor heart can live without the other. The husband and wife need one another, and together they can build a home on a rock foundation of love, consideration, honesty, and trust.



For You To Do

7 What is one thing that can hinder a man's prayers being answered?

.....

.....

8 The husband is the head of the home. What may we say the wife is?

.....

.....

To Protect and Care for Her

In 1 Peter 3:7 the Bible speaks of the woman as the weaker partner. God expects the husband to protect and care for his wife. There are times when she needs special care and consideration for her comfort and health. A woman should do the work in the home, which is her responsibility, but the Bible does not teach that she is to do all of the work while the man wastes his time. It is the man's responsibility to take care of his wife. Helping hands are caring hands, dear husbands.



For You To Do

Since the Bible refers to woman as the weaker partner, what does God expect of the husband?

.....

To Be Faithful to Her

The Bible teaches clearly that a man is to stay with his wife, and not pursue other women. In Malachi 2:15 (NIV) we read, "So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth."

What if a man's wife cannot give him a child? In the Old Testament we read the story of Hannah and Elkanah. Hannah was unable to give Elkanah a child, but he did not abuse her and send her away because of that. He loved her just the same. But Hannah wanted so much to have a son that she went to the house of the Lord and poured her heart out to God. And God heard and answered her prayer.

1 Samuel 1:20. So it was that she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, and explained, "I asked the Lord for him."



For You To Do

10 What did God do for one childless couple in the Bible who were faithful to Him and to one another?

.....
.....

11 Whose prayer was it that God honored?

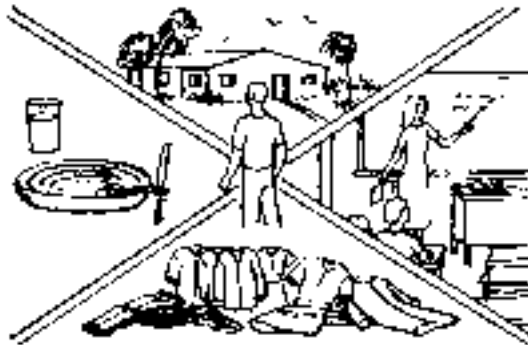
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TO TAKE CARE OF HIS FAMILY

Objective 3. *Consider God's promises that He will enable husbands to provide for the physical, social, and spiritual needs of his family.*

To Provide for Physical Needs

God expects the man to work and provide for his family. He is responsible for their food, shelter, clothing, and education. He must also see to it that his children learn how to work so that they can make a living for themselves. (See 1 Timothy 5:8.)



For You To Do

12 Memorize 1 Timothy 5:8. Recite it to someone.

To Provide for Spiritual Needs

We have seen that it is the father's duty to teach his family about God. The apostle Paul calls attention to this in 1 Corinthians 14:35. Sometimes when the women did not understand the preaching they would call out to their husbands during the service and ask questions. Paul said that the wives should remain silent and not interrupt the service, but ask their husbands questions when they were at home again.

Of course, husbands also share in the responsibility of training the children. The moral and spiritual development of the children depends to a great extent on the example and teaching of their parents. In Proverbs 17:25 we read: "A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitter regrets to his mother." But "a wise son makes his father happy" (Proverbs 15:20). The difference between a

foolish son and a wise son is often the difference in the teaching the fathers have given their sons. Proverbs 19:18 should serve as a solemn reminder to every father:

Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don't, you are helping them destroy themselves.



For You To Do

13 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statement.

- a** The father is responsible to provide for the spiritual needs of his children, while the mother is responsible only for her own spiritual needs.
- b** Although parents share the responsibility for the training of their children, the greater responsibility lies with the father—the head of the house.



Check Your Answers

- 7 If he is not treating his wife with the proper love and respect.
- 1 It came from the old English word *house-band* meaning to hold a house together.
- 8 The heart of the home.
- 2 To Christ's authority over the church.
- 9 To protect her and take care of her.
- 3 (Any three) By loving her, encouraging her, spending time with her, letting her know he appreciates her, by not reminding her of her faults.
- 10 He gave them a son.
 - 4 When you know the verses well enough, recite them to another person.
- 11 Hannah's.
 - 5 True love between the husband and wife.
- 12 When you feel you have memorized the verse well, recite it to someone else.
 - 6 Go to God in prayer, and be sure that their lives are wholly committed to Him.
- 13 Statement **b** is true.

Lesson
7

Duties of a Wife

The woman is wise who knows that her role as a wife is one of vast responsibility, and she is ready for God to show her how to be the kind of wife He wants her to be. She recognizes God's principles for a happy, lasting marriage and learns to apply them.

God's Word clearly states what the position of the man and woman in the home is to be, and the harmony of a Christian marriage depends upon this. While the husband's God-given authority is for the protection of his wife and should be accepted joyfully, her concern and care also lend much to the spiritual health of the home.

In this lesson we will reaffirm what it means for a woman to give her husband his rightful place in her life—the place God means him to occupy—and in so doing, becomes a stabilizing influence in the home.

Perhaps the modern paraphrase for what Proverbs says about a godly wife are the words of a minister who compares his wife to a magnet. He says that wherever he may be, "Nothing else compares with the pulling power of that magnet for me."



In this lesson you will study . . .

To Love Her Husband
To Make the Home a Happy Home
To Love and Train the Children
To Serve Outside the Home

This lesson will help you . . .

- Discuss the basic elements in the marriage relationship that will protect it in times of difficulty.
- Describe the role of a wife in making the home a happy one.
- State the ways a woman influences her family.

TO LOVE HER HUSBAND

Objective 1. *Describe the elements of true love that will reinforce a wife in her aim to commit to her spouse without reserve.*

To Love and Respect Him

There are those who say that the principal duty of a wife is to be submissive to her husband. The apostle Paul, in writing to Titus, reminded him to instruct the older women to conduct themselves as godly women should, so that they could “train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, and to be good housewives who submit themselves to their husbands” (Titus 2:4-5). So we see that God does expect wives to be submissive to their husbands, and the woman who really wants to obey this command does not find this so difficult. Whether or not she wants to obey, however, depends to a great extent upon how much she loves her husband, and upon how much he himself conforms to the pattern Christ left for the head of the house.

Perhaps more important, then, than endeavoring to determine what is the *principal* duty of a wife, we need to keep in mind the emphasis the Bible gives to the love and respect a husband and wife must have for one another. Without these basic elements, a marriage is on shaky ground. But a man and wife who enter marriage believing it to be a divine institution, patterned after the relationship of Christ to the church (Ephesians 5:21-33), are building on a stable foundation.

In Lesson 6, we discussed what the Bible means by the command to husbands to love and respect their wives. Much the same can be said about the command to wives. Husbands and wives can either hinder or help one another in being what God wants them to be, by neglecting or fulfilling their own responsibilities as Christian companions. As it is the responsibility of the husband to love and respect his wife as the weaker partner, it is the wife’s responsibility to love and respect her husband as the stronger, the protector, and the head of the family. Whether his faults are many or few, as her husband, a man deserves his wife’s respect.

Ephesians 5:33. Every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband.

There is no place in a home for abusive words between a husband and wife. They should not irritate or annoy one another by constant complaining and scolding. Certainly a wife should never ridicule, criticize, or scold her husband in the presence of others. Love and respect between a husband and wife afford great protection to their marriage when difficulties come. Moods and feelings of either partner do not change what their marriage is founded upon.



For You To Do

- 1 Memorize Ephesians 5:33.
- 2 What basic elements in the marriage relationship protect it when difficulties come?
.....
- 3 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statement.
 - a A man who expects his wife to be submissive to him, should conform to the pattern Christ left for the husband.
 - b If a husband does not conform to the pattern Christ left for him, his wife need not be submissive to him.
 - c Wives are commanded to love and respect their husbands, not to be submissive to them.

To Be Faithful to Him

Objective 2. *Recount what the Bible teaches that God will do for the wife who obeys His directives for marriage.*

The actual wedding ceremony differs in some respects from country to country. Even within a particular culture or country, the vows exchanged between a bride and groom vary, depending upon the form of ceremony they have selected. But since marriage is a religious institution, it is subject to the law of God. And the Word of God addresses itself to those desiring God's sanction and approval upon their marriage.

The standard upheld by the Bible, as relates to the married state, is very different from those upheld and practiced in many parts of the world today. Jesus Himself, quoting from the law of Moses, said, "A man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one." Then He went on to say, "So they are no longer two, but one. Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together" (Mark 10:7-9). Verses 9 through 12 of this same chapter further confirm the fact that God means for the sacred relationship of marriage, into which a man and woman enter, to continue as long as they live. Either marriage partner who obtains a divorce and marries another is guilty of adultery.

A man and woman who take the marriage vows "become one" in God's sight, and if they view this sacred commitment through God's eyes, they know it means to "*remain* one." In times of sickness, and of health. In times of financial difficulties, and in times of plenty. In the good times, and in the bad. A wife's patience, understanding, and encouragement have helped many a husband through periods of crisis that he could not have weathered alone.

Proverbs 31 has many things to say about the right kind of wife. In this chapter we are given a description of a good wife, one who honors the Lord (v. 30). The writer says this kind of wife is hard to find but, "She is worth far more than jewels" (v. 10). She is pure and righteous, upright and honest, dependable. She is faithful to her husband in thought, word, and actions. "As long as she lives, she does him good and never harm" (v. 12). She is not like the woman of Proverbs 6:24 who tempts other men. A man is fortunate who has a wife he loves and trusts, and sees as "the best of them all" (v. 29).



For You To Do

4 What is the best source for finding God's pattern for marriage?

.....

5 Circle the letter of the TRUE statement.

- a Marriage and divorce were both instituted by God.
- b A marriage is free from problems if both the husband and wife are Christians.
- c A good wife will be faithful to her husband, whatever difficulties may arise.

6 In what Old Testament book do we find a description of a good wife?

.....

TO MAKE THE HOME A HAPPY HOME

Objective 3. *Observe the results of a wife's role as a godly complement to her husband—in her service of words and deeds.*

By Being an Example in Word and Deed

A wife, by the way she speaks, can be a joy and example to her husband, her children, and to all who know her. Or she can make life miserable for all who come within the sound of her voice. Nagging, complaining, a sharp tone of voice is irritating, and makes everyone in the home unhappy.

Proverbs 20:19. It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and fretful woman.

Children who are raised under this kind of influence in the home often tend to follow the same pattern when they marry and establish a home of their own.

In 1 Timothy 5:13 the Bible warns against being gossips and busybodies; that is, talking of things one should not, and meddling in the affairs of others. But the cheerful attitude and the kind, loving words of a wife and mother can have a great influence upon the entire family.

Proverbs 31:26, 28. She speaks with a gentle wisdom. Her children show their appreciation, and her husband praises her.

As we continue the study of this lesson, we will discover many ways in which a wife is an example in her actions or deeds, as well as in her speech.



For You To Do

- 7 Memorize Proverbs 31:26, 28.
 - 8 In what two ways should a godly wife and mother be an example?
-

By Being a Good Homemaker

Objective 4. *Observe practical ways wives can make the art of homemaking an expression of love.*

Titus 2:5 says that married women are to be “good housewives.” A woman’s first responsibility is to her family, caring for them and making the home a happy home. This is not a small task, but it is a God-given task, and God will help and strengthen the woman who purposes to be the best possible wife and mother.

A good wife and mother learns to cook what is good for her family and what pleases them, with the money available to her. In order to prepare wholesome food for them, she must learn all she can about the right kinds of food. It is a joy for a woman who loves her family to keep the home pleasant and clean (however poor it might be), and to cheerfully do her part in seeing that their needs are taken care of. If she honors God, she does not consider it a burden to have meals prepared for her family at the proper time and served as attractively as possible, to have her husband and children’s clothes taken care of, and the house in order. These are acts of love for those who are dearest to her. And this is the kind of wife and mother that a family likes to come home to.



For You To Do

9 Name at least three ways that a woman can be an example of a good homemaker by her actions.

.....
.....
.....

By Careful Spending

Objective 5. *Explain the biblical basis for a homemaker’s financial discipline and success.*

The cheerfulness of a godly woman is reflected in everything she does. She may find it a bit more difficult to be cheerful if she does not have the money she feels is necessary to take care of her family and household properly. But God can help her to be satisfied with what she has, and to discipline herself not to spend over and above her husband’s earnings. If she trusts God, her joy will be in knowing that He will never abandon her and her family.

Hebrews 13:5. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.”

Philippians 4:19. And with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs.

Women need to look for ways to save money when buying food and other items for the home. It is not necessary to buy the most expensive products to be found. Some women learn to sew and are able to save money by making their own clothes and clothes for their families. There are times, of course, when a woman has special needs to take to God in prayer. He expects His children to ask Him for what they have need of, but first to be thankful for what they already have.

Philippians 4:6. Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart.



For You To Do

10 Name at least two ways a woman may be able to save money in the home, giving either your own suggestions or those found in the lesson.

.....
.....

11 Memorize Philippians 4:6. Recite it to someone.

TO LOVE AND TRAIN THE CHILDREN

Objective 6. *Illustrate how it is the heritage of godly mothers today, to train up their children as unto the Lord.*

A mother has a special responsibility in loving, teaching, and training the children, for she is usually with them more than the father is.

From what the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:5, we believe that Timothy learned the truths of God's Word from his mother and grandmother. It was Hannah's love for God and for her son Samuel that led her to consecrate her son to God's service (1 Samuel 1:24-28). Moses' mother taught him so well that when he was older he could make the decision to serve God (Hebrews 11:24-25).

The words, "Her children show their appreciation, and her husband praises her" (Proverbs 31:28), are a tribute to godly women who faithfully assume the role of wife and mother.



For You To Do

12 Which three of the following had godly mothers who taught them God's truths?

- a) Timothy, Moses, and Paul
- b) Moses, Samuel, and Timothy
- c) Samuel, Moses, and Paul

TO SERVE OUTSIDE THE HOME

Objective 7. *Discuss the qualities of a balanced homemaker who handles affairs within and outside the home.*

Although a woman's first concern is her family, she also has other interests. The woman we read about in Proverbs 31 is not a lazy person. She worked on the farm and had goods to sell. Of course, this would not apply in exactly the same way to many women today who do not live in a rural setting, but it is true that a wife can contribute to the general welfare of the home.

What a blessing it is for a wife to be able to organize her work in such a way that she is also able to do other things outside of the home. However, a husband must be careful not to be unreasonable in his expectations. A wife cannot handle all of the responsibilities of the home and children and those outside the home, without considerable help from her husband.

The kind of woman we have been studying about in this lesson is wise, generous, and kind. She helps the poor (Proverbs 31:20). God gives her strength and honor because she fears the Lord and obeys Him. "She is strong and respected and not afraid of the future" (v. 25). This beauty of

character is far better than just a pretty face. Physical beauty will disappear, “but a woman who honors the Lord should be praised” (v. 30).



For You To Do

13 What two conditions are necessary for a woman to be able to carry responsibilities outside of the home?

.....

.....



Check Your Answers

- 7 When you have memorized Proverbs 31:26, 28, recite the verses to another person.
- 1 When you have memorized the verse well, recite it to another person.
- 8 In her speech and actions.
- 2 Love and respect between husband and wife.
- 9 By preparing wholesome and attractive meals for her family, taking proper care of her children, having her house clean and in order.
- 3 Statement **a** is true.
- 10 Women who sew can save by sewing for their families; they can purchase the less expensive items for the home.
- 4 The Bible.
- 11 When you have learned the Scripture verse well recite it to another person.
- 5 Statement **c** is true.
- 12 b) Moses, Samuel, and Timothy.
- 6 Proverbs.
- 13 Her work at home should be organized, and she needs the help of her husband.

Lesson
8

Duties of Children

When we consider the importance the Word of God gives to obedience, it is not strange that the one commandment to children found in the Bible is, “Children, obey your parents.” One of the most valuable lessons a child can learn is respect for authority. And the lesson begins at home.

Jesus our perfect example, through His obedience to the Heavenly Father, made salvation available to all mankind. The Son of God always did what pleased the Father (John 8:29), and He *first* learned obedience from His earthly parents (Luke 2:51).

A little maid of Israel, who was taken captive to Syria, gave a testimony to the power of God, which resulted in a Syrian captain being healed of leprosy. Undoubtedly, this young girl learned obedience to her parents, and in turn to their God, in her home back in Israel.

In this lesson we will consider reasons children need to learn obedience. We will also recognize some far-reaching effects in the lives of those who learn respect for authority and those who do not.



In this lesson you will study . . .

To Respect Their Parents
To Help Their Parents
To Love, Honor, and Obey God

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe and give the scriptural basis for the responsibilities of children to their parents.
- Demonstrate from Scripture who is responsible when children fail to obey their parents.
- Explain how the attitude of children toward authority has far-reaching effects outside the home.

TO RESPECT AND OBEY THEIR PARENTS

Objective 1. *Review God's direct command to children and their reward for obedience to it.*

Because God Commands It

The fifth of the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20 was to children, and it was the only one with a promise. Jesus repeated it (Matthew 15:4), and the apostle Paul also quoted it in his teaching:

Ephesians 6:1-3. Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do. *Respect your father and mother* is the first commandment that has a promise added; "so that all may go well with you, and you may live a long time in the land.

Children show their respect for their parents by obeying them. Every time that a child speaks disrespectfully to a parent, refuses to do what he is told, ignores his parent when spoken to, or fights back when disciplined, he is breaking one of the Ten Commandments.

In Old Testament times disobedience to parents was considered to be such a serious offense that it could be punished by death. The government, by resorting to such severe punishment, discouraged the spread of a lawless, disobedient spirit that would be a threat to society.

If all children respected and obeyed their parents, very few would ever become lawbreakers and criminals. Wise sons and daughters will choose to obey their parents, and make them proud of them.

Proverbs 10:1. A wise son makes his father proud of him; a foolish one brings his mother grief.

Those who do not respect the authority of their parents are not likely to respect that of anyone else. Until children reach the legal age of adulthood, God's laws and those of the land give parents authority over them. But even when a person is of age and begins to manage his own life and make his own decisions, directly under God's authority rather than that of his parents, he should always respect his parents.



For You To Do

- 1 Memorize Ephesians 6:1-3.
- 2 How do we know that the commandment to children is very important? Use your notebook for your answer.
- 3 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a People who become criminals are most likely those who, as children, had little respect for authority.
 - b When a person reaches adulthood it is no longer possible for him to break the fifth commandment.
 - c God is greatly displeased with children who do not respect and obey their parents.

Because of Their Love and Care

Objective 2. *Describe the partnership between God and parents in the training of children in the home.*

When God blesses a home with children, He expects the parents to give them loving care. A woman suffers a great deal of discomfort when she brings a child into the world. Many parents go without something they need in order to be able to take care of the needs of their children.

God expects parents to guide and train their children to the best of their ability. So, in cooperating with their parents, children are cooperating with God. The Lord said of Abraham,

Genesis 18:19. I have chosen him in order that he may command his sons and his descendants to obey me and to do what is right and just. If they do, I will do everything for him that I have promised.

What do children owe their parents? How can they ever repay them for the gift of life, their work to provide them with food, clothing, shelter, and teaching? Love, respect, and obedience are the best ways for children to say thank you to their parents for their love and care.

Parents have already passed through many of the experiences their children have yet to face. They sometimes understand a child's problems better than he realizes, and they can often give valuable help and advice. Children need to know that there is someone stronger and wiser in the family than they are.

Some young people may fail to show respect because their parents are poor and uneducated. Perhaps their parents do not dress as fashionably as some, and they may be unable to discuss world problems with great intellectual skills. But it could be that these parents have wanted so much for their children to have a good life that they have kept little for themselves. They have earnestly and without complaint given of their time, money, and strength, and deserve the love and respect of their children. Children who treat their parents unkindly, for whatever reason, not only hurt them but they hurt themselves. "You do yourself a favor when you are kind. If you are cruel, you only hurt yourself" (Proverbs 11:17).

In his book *Making the Home Happy*, R.T. Cross says:

There are two reasons why we should love God: first, because of the position which He holds in the universe; secondly, because of His loving and lovable character.

There are two reasons for honoring our rulers: first, because of the position they hold; secondly, because of their characters, if their characters are good.

There are two reasons for honoring our parents: first, because of the position which they hold as our natural protectors and rulers and providers; and secondly, because of their love for us, whatever is good in them, and whatever good they do us.

Love includes all the responsibilities, which we owe to our parents. We cannot honor our parents without loving them, or love them without honoring them.



For You To Do

4 Read 1 Timothy 3:4. What responsibility of a father is mentioned here?

.....
.....

5 Who do you think is hurt when children fail to obey their parents?

.....
.....

Because of Love for Parents

Children who love their parents will want to please them. Sometimes we find it difficult to obey God in some things He asks of us, but we must learn to trust Him to know best. Children must also learn to trust their parents to know what is best for them, because God places parents in this position of authority over their children. Jesus is the perfect example for, although He is the Son of God, He obeyed His earthly parents.

Luke 2:51. So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them.

Read again the excerpt from *Making the Home Happy*, found in the previous section.



For You To Do

- 6 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a It is not always easy to obey God, but if we love Him we want to please Him.
 - b Jesus did not need to obey His earthly parents because He was the Son of God.
 - c Children can honor or respect their parents without loving them.

TO HELP THEIR PARENTS

Objective 3. *Observe how home training can prepare children for their adult roles of responsibility.*

Help in the Home

While parents are expected to provide for their children, children can share in the work of the home. This is one of the most important aspects of a child's training—the opportunity for work tasks of which he is capable. At times a parent would far rather do a task himself than to go through the tedious, and sometimes painful process, of teaching a child to do it. But very often children who have grown up rebelling against authority are those who have had too much free time, and were not taught in the home to take responsibility. A young child requires more play time, but an increasing proportion of his time should be given to work as he grows older and moves into adulthood.



It will be far easier for a person to assume responsibilities as an adult, if he has learned to do so as a member of a family. Young people who have jobs outside the home to earn extra money can also help their parents by sharing some of the expenses. Some young people are able to buy their own clothes and school supplies, helping in this way to relieve the financial burden of their parents.



For You To Do

- 7 Circle the letter in front of the one best statement about children's work in the home.
- a) If parents do not train their children to help in the home, it simply means they have to do more work themselves.
 - b) Children who grow up learning to work as well as play are learning to use free time wisely, and will better know how to assume responsibility in an adult world.
 - c) So as not to show more love for one child than another, parents must allow all of their children to have the same amount of playtime and work time.

Care for Aged Parents

When, because of their age or serious illness, parents are no longer able to care for themselves, children are responsible to see that they receive proper care. Whether they are able to take their parents into their own home, or it is necessary to make other provision for them, they can show love and appreciation for their parents by assuming this responsibility.



Jesus, even in His suffering when He was dying on the cross, remembered His mother. He entrusted her into the care of John, one of His disciples:

John 19:26-27. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "He is your son. Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.



For You To Do

- 8 What did you learn from Jesus' example in the way He treated His mother? Write your answer in your notebook.

TO LOVE, HONOR, AND OBEY GOD

Objective 4. *List the spiritual benefits that come from the godly nurturing in the Christian home.*

Accept Jesus as Savior

Children should learn to love, honor, and obey God at a very early age. They need not wait until they are adults to repent of their sins and accept Jesus as their Savior, as the following verses affirm.

Ecclesiastes 12:1. Remember your Creator while you are still young.

Mark 10:14. Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

When a child is old enough to understand that he has sinned, he is old enough to be saved. If older children show definite evidence of repentance, they should be baptized. The earlier in life a person makes a decision for Christ, the better, for it becomes more and more difficult as a person grows older for him to turn from his past and accept Christ.



For You To Do

9 When is the best time for a person to accept Jesus as his Savior?

.....

Worship God

Worship means “the expression of one’s love for God.” People express their love for God by telling Him they love Him, by praising Him in song, by thanking Him for His blessings, and by talking with Him in prayer. Going to God’s house, learning together from God’s Word, being sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to the heart, are all acts of worship. Worship also includes giving one’s money, time, and effort that others may come to know Christ also.



God wants children to have a part in worshipping Him in family worship in the home and in God’s house with their parents and brothers and sisters. Several of the outstanding men of the Bible learned to worship and serve God when they were children. Among them were Moses, Daniel, Samuel, and Timothy. Children were expected to accompany their parents to God’s house.

2 Chronicles 20:13. All the men of Judah, with their wives and children, were standing there at the Temple.

The religious leaders became angry when they heard children in the temple shouting, “Praise to David’s Son!” So they asked Jesus if He had heard what the children were saying. “Indeed I do,” answered Jesus. “Haven’t you ever read this Scripture? ‘You have trained children and babies to offer perfect praise’” (Matthew 21:16).



For You To Do

10 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a The expression of our love for God through worship takes place in God’s house alone.
- b We worship in various ways; such as, in praise, in song, in giving, in studying God’s Word.
- c Worship is simply praising and thanking God—expressing in words—what He has done for us.

Put God First

God expects to have first place in the lives of His children for whom He has given everything. The Bible teaches us:

Matthew 6:33. Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you.

There comes a time in the life of every Christian when to put God first as one must do causes a struggle with other loyalties. Difficulties arise in some homes because a child is a Christian and the parents are not. Yet children are commanded to obey their parents. God has given parents authority over their children, and has charged parents with the responsibility of teaching, disciplining, and loving them.

Whatever opposition may arise when parents are not Christians, their child must manifest a true Christian spirit, continuing to respect and honor his parents. As in other relationships in which a Christian finds his convictions at variance with an authority over him, the answer must be found by earnestly seeking God in prayer. God can resolve problems satisfactorily, when humanly speaking, there is no solution.

Following are two of the many wonderful promises of God to direct a child of His in every circumstance of his life, if he will trust and obey Him.

1 Corinthians 10:13. Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.

Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.

11 What is a problem that confronts every Christian at some time in his life?

.....
.....

12 What must he do to resolve the problem?

.....

13 Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13.



Check Your Answers

- 7 b) Children who grow up learning . . .
- 1 After committing Ephesians 6:1-3 to memory, repeat it to another person.
 - 8 Your answer. I would say: If Jesus, when He was dying, felt such love and concern for His mother that she be cared for properly, we are never relieved of this responsibility for our parents.
 - 2 Your answer may be similar to mine. It is a commandment from God; it is referred to at least three times in the Bible; it is the only commandment accompanied by a promise; disobedience to parents was severely punished in Old Testament times.
 - 9 Early in life.
 - 3 Statements **a** and **c** are true.
 - 10 Statement **b** is true.
 - 4 He must manage his family, and train his children to respect and obey him.
 - 11 He finds that his Christian convictions are at variance with someone in authority over him.
 - 5 Your answer. I would say: It grieves or hurts God who loves them; it hurts their parents who love them; and children hurt themselves.
 - 12 Seek God earnestly in prayer for His guidance.
 - 6 Statement **a** is true.
 - 13 Recite the verse you have memorized to another person.

Lesson
9

Duties of Parents

Well-disciplined and obedient children do not “just happen” any more than a beautiful flower garden “just happens.” Both require effort. A gardener is held responsible for cultivating a garden. Parents are held responsible for teaching, disciplining, and loving their children.

When parents have the proper relationship with God and set a good example, they will find it far easier to establish and maintain authority over their children. A six-year-old who complained, “Our family is the only one that *has* to have goodness,” may have chafed at the discipline but he knew that obedience was not optional; it was required. And he felt secure even when disciplined because he knew his parents loved him.

In this lesson we will discuss further the areas in which parents are responsible for the training of their children. We will also consider instances of families who suffered unnecessary heartbreak because parents failed in their responsibility to their children.



In this lesson you will study . . .

To Love Their Children
To Provide for Their Physical Needs
To Educate Their Children
To Provide for Their Spiritual Needs

This lesson will help you . . .

- Submit scriptural evidence that justifies the statement, “A home can be protected against Satan’s attacks.”
- State reasons that parents must provide for the needs of their children as long as the children are under their care.
- Describe how the love of parents affects their children and the parents, themselves.

TO LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

Objective 1. *Describe how the love of parents affects their children and themselves as well.*

God gives children to a husband and wife as a sacred trust not to be treated lightly. As God loves and cares for His children, He expects parents to follow His pattern and example.

The love of parents should first be seen in their attitude toward an unborn child. They should look forward with joy to the birth of their child and, whether it be a boy or a girl, accept it as a blessing from the Lord.

Psalm 127:3. Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing.

Babies need love if they are to grow and develop properly, and parents give them a good start in life by cuddling them, playing with them, and caring for them. Parents who love their children will gladly accept the responsibility of caring for them. They must provide food, clothing, shelter, social training, education, and spiritual leadership for their children. It is not uncommon for parents to sacrifice their own comfort and desires in order to meet the needs of their children. Love helps parents develop patience and understanding for their children and to greatly appreciate the love and patience of the Heavenly Father. You find in the Bible,

Ephesians 5:1-2. Since you are God's dear children, you must try to be like him. Your life must be controlled by love.

When parents are thoughtless and show more love for one child than another, this leads to jealousy and other problems. In Genesis 37 we find that Joseph's brothers wanted to get rid of him because their father treated him better than he did the rest of his children. A new baby in a home should be a delight to everyone. And wise parents will make every effort to let their other children know that they are not loved any less simply because they have a new brother or sister.



For You To Do

- 1 Memorize Psalm 127:3 and Ephesians 5:1-2.
- 2 Name several ways in which parents express their love for their children.

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- 3 What valuable lesson can parents learn from Genesis 37:3-4?

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TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS

Objective 2. *State reasons why parents must provide for the physical needs of their children as long as they are under their care.*

A Home

Some parents have the custom of sending their children to live with their grandparents or other relatives. But providing a good home for their children is the responsibility of the parents, and with God's help parents can usually find a way to do this. The house may be humble, but it can be clean, pleasant, and filled with love. Although, in some instances, relatives may be better able to provide for the material needs of a child, such can never take the place of the love and teaching which Christian parents can provide.

It is sometimes necessary for children to go away from home to attend boarding school, but it is better that they not be separated from their parents for long periods of time. Children need their parents and should be at home with them to enjoy their love and care.



For You To Do

4 Why is it not best for children to be separated from their parents for long periods of time?

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Clothing and Food

Good parents try to clothe their children comfortably and see that they are well fed. The mother will try to keep them neat, clean, and comfortable.

Preparing the right kind of food for her children is an important part of a mother's work. They need milk, fresh fruit, vegetables, and such nourishing foods as beans, meat, fish, and eggs. An abundance of starchy food without fresh fruit and vegetables is not best for their health. Nevertheless, God's provision for the home should be the guide for the mother, as she prepares the greatest balance for her family.



For You To Do

5 What kind of food do children need?

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TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN

Schooling

Objective 3. *Describe the three areas in which parents are to provide training and education for their children.*

It is the responsibility of parents to provide the proper training and education for their children so that they will one day be able to earn a living for themselves. It has become increasingly difficult for those who are untrained and have little education to obtain good jobs.



For You To Do

6 Why is it important that parents send their children to school?

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Home Training

Although schools and churches contribute a great deal to the training of children, nothing is more important than the training children receive from their parents in the home. This teaching and training begins when a child is born, and by the age of six most children have already formed habits that will affect their entire life.

Proverbs 22:6. Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life.

Parents are responsible for teaching their children to take care of their bodies. Children can learn at an early age the importance of forming good habits: to be neat and clean, to bathe frequently, to wash their hands before meals, comb their hair, brush their teeth, and keep their clothes clean. In all of these things, of course, parents teach by example, as well as by what they say.



For You To Do

7 When should a child's training begin?

.....

8 By what age have most children acquired their life habits?

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9 Memorize Proverbs 22:6.

Correction

An essential part of any teaching is correction, and this cannot be left out of training for life and for eternity. All children disobey their parents at times, and must be corrected. Sometimes a parent has to punish a child so that he will realize the seriousness of his wrongdoing. Children, who learn to respect and obey their parents, will find it much easier to respect and obey the laws of their country and the commandments of God.

Proverbs 29:15. Correction and discipline are good for children. If a child has his own way, he will make his mother ashamed of him.

A child must be corrected in a spirit of love, never in a spirit of anger. He needs to know why he is being punished, and that he must learn to obey. But there are correct ways to discipline, and a parent must exercise caution so as not to inflict injury upon a child.

A good practice Christian parents often follow is to pray with their children after they have punished them, and then assure them that they forgive them and still love them. If a child feels he is rejected because he has disobeyed, he may suffer emotionally. But if he can be made to understand that his parents correct him because they love him—not because they don't—it can be a helpful, growing experience for the child.

Proverbs 13:24. If you don't punish your son, you don't love him. If you do love him you will correct him.

It will also help a child to know that God Himself corrects His children:

Proverbs 3:12. The Lord corrects those he loves, as a father corrects a son of whom he is proud.

Parents who allow children to grow up without teaching them obedience and respect for authority are, in effect, encouraging rebellion. Children from such homes rebel against all authority, including God's, and such rebellion may lead to crime, imprisonment, and even death.

We read in the Old Testament of Eli and David, men of God who suffered shame, disgrace, and tragedy in their families because they did not train and discipline their sons. So it is not only required that parents must live godly lives; they must also teach their children to obey God.

Eli loved God but his sons were evil and brought disgrace on God's house. In the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel, we read what God said about Eli's failure to correct his sons:

1 Samuel 3:13. I have already told him [Eli] that I am going to punish his family forever because his sons have spoken evil things against me. Eli knew they were doing this, but he did not stop them.

King David's son, Adonijah, tried to take the kingdom away from his father. He wanted to have his own way and this later led him to a tragic death. David was greatly to blame for not having corrected his son when he was growing up. We read about this in the book of 1 Kings.

1 Kings 1:6 David had never reprimanded him [Adonijah] about anything, and he was ambitious to be king.



For You To Do

10 Circle the letter in front of each statement made by a parent that reflects a correct attitude about disciplining children.

- a) "I demand respect for my authority from my children, and let them know that I do not love them when they disobey."
- b) "I do not correct my child for fear that she will feel rejected or unloved."
- c) "If I am angry with my child who has disobeyed and needs to be punished, I do not punish him until I can do so in a spirit of love."
- d) "I can do my child great harm, if I fail in my responsibility as a parent, to discipline and correct her."

11 For each of the items in question 10, write in your notebook the reason you consider the attitude to be either correct or incorrect.

12 How did the priest Eli and King David fail in their responsibility as fathers?

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TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Objective 4. *Describe the things that Christian parents' must do to mold and guide their children as the Bible commands.*

Dedication of Children

Parents have a solemn responsibility of molding and guiding the lives of children God entrusts them. When they take a child to God's house to be dedicated to Him, parents acknowledge this responsibility and enter into a special covenant or agreement with God. The pastor prays for the child, dedicating it to God's care and protection throughout life. The parents promise to train the child in God's ways so that, when the time comes, it will be natural for the child to turn from the wrong to the right and accept Jesus as his Savior.

God answered Hannah's prayer for a son, and Samuel was still just a child when his parents took him to the priest in the house of the Lord. Hannah's words to Eli, the priest, were praise and an example to parents today, especially mothers.

1 Samuel 1:28. I am dedicating him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he will belong to the Lord.

Jesus' earthly parents dedicated Him to God also.

Luke 2:22. They took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.



For You To Do

13 Read 1 Samuel 2:26 and Luke 2:52. What do we find in these verses about one of the benefits of dedicating children to God?

.....

Training in God's Word

When parents teach their children the way to heaven, they are getting them ready for a wonderful life that will never end. As, at a very early age, children can learn what pleases or displeases their parents, they can learn what pleases and displeases God. The words of Christ found in Matthew cause us to know that a child can believe in Christ:

Matthew 18:6. If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea.

(See also Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 31:12.)



Church Attendance

Families need to attend church together. If the way parents live contradicts their teaching the latter will have little effect. Parents who send their children to church by themselves, or do not insist that their children accompany them, are saying, in effect, that church attendance is not too important.



Jesus' parents took Him to the house of God when He was very small, and they continued to take Him as He grew older. Samuel's parents went regularly to God's house. Joshua gave us that wonderful motto which should be the watchword for every believer's home:

Joshua 24:15. As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.

Can anything please God more than entire families serving Him?



For You To Do

- 14** Circle the letter in front of the best answer. The way children learn the importance of faithfulness in church attendance is by
- a) their parents' example.
 - b) the teaching of their parents.
 - c) both a) and b).

To Protect the Home

Although Satan would like to destroy every Christian home, he is powerless to do so when people run to the available protection of God. Unfortunately, the greatest aid in protecting the home from Satan's attacks is the one most often neglected: family worship.

Oftentimes homes, which have been torn asunder, were homes where parents did many of the right things. They provided for the physical needs of their children; they educated them; they took them to church. But when parents fail to assume the leadership of the religious education of their children, their home is headed for disaster.



Besides walls of wood, mud, or brick to protect themselves from the natural dangers, a family needs love, faithfulness, forgiveness, and prayer to take them through the difficult times. And these needs are best met in family worship. A husband and wife need to fortify themselves against temptation and sin, as well as providing protection for their children. We have dealt at length with these subjects in previous lessons, particularly in *Duties of a Husband*, *Duties of a Wife*, and *Duties of Children*. You may wish to review each one.

It takes time, effort, and planning to maintain family worship, but parents who do find it well worth any sacrifice. Couples have resolved serious problems, which threatened their marriage, as they prayed and sought God together. Many are the testimonies of young people who rebelled against God for a time, but was reconciled to Him later, because they could never get away from the influence of the family altar and the prayers and guidance of their parents. I trust that you can now say along with Joshua:

Joshua 24:15. As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.



For You To Do

15 Name the four "walls" necessary to protect and save a family from spiritual disaster.

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You have finished your study of *Marriage and Home*. I hope these lessons have helped you discover some principles for establishing good family relationships, and developing a happy home.

Now you are ready to fill out the last half of your student report for Lessons 6-9. Review these lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. When you send your answer sheets to your instructor, ask him or her about another course of study.



Check Your Answers

- 8** By the age of six.
- 1** After learning the memory verses well, repeat them to another person.
- 9** After memorizing Proverbs 22:6, recite it to another person.
- 2** Through patience and understanding, training, caring and providing for them, and also playing with them.
- 10** c) “If I am angry with my child . . .”
d) “I can do my child great harm . . .”
- 3** Serious problems arise in a home when a parent shows more love for one child than for the others.
- 11** Your answers may be similar to mine.
- a) For a child’s own well-being, he needs to know that his parents love him at all times, even when he has been disobedient.
- b) A child need not feel rejected or unloved when he or she is corrected by the parents, because they *do* love and forgive the child even as God loves and forgives.
- c) A parent may injure a child emotionally, and even physically, if he punishes him when angry.
- d) A child growing up without discipline may become rebellious against all authority, including that of God.
- 4** Because it is so important that children have the direct love and care of their parents.
- 12** They failed to correct their sons.
- 5** They need a variety of foods: milk, fruit, vegetables, beans, meat, fish, and eggs.
- 13** Both Jesus and Samuel grew in favor with God and men.
- 6** Those who grow up without having received some type of training will have difficulty earning a living for themselves.
- 14** c) both a) and b).
- 7** At birth.
- 13** Love, faithfulness, forgiveness, prayer.

One Final Word

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are happy people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems which trouble almost everyone in the world. These happy people believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information in order to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book in order to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

1. You need a Savior. Read Romans 3:23, Ezekiel 18:20.
2. You cannot save yourself. Read 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6.
3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
4. God sent Jesus who gave his life to save all those who believe in Him. Read Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 3:18.
6. You decide your eternal destiny. Read Luke 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:35-36.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and it gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions, or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book you should find a card called *Decision Report* and *Request Card*. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions, or make requests for prayer or information.

If there is no card in this copy of the book, write to your ICI instructor and you will receive a personal answer.

Marriage and the Home

UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS

STUDENT REPORT DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the answer sheet for that unit. Do only one unit at a time. Return each answer sheet to your ICI instructor or office in your area as soon as you have completed it.

The following are directions on how to indicate your answer to each question.

EXAMPLE

There is one best answer. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.

- 1** To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*, so you would blacken space **b** like this:

1	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C
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Now read the questions in your Student Report and mark your answers in the answer section as we have shown in our example. Choose your answer and blacken the space **a**, **b**, or **c** according to your choice.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** The only institution on earth today that began before sin came into the world is
 - a) government.
 - b) marriage.
 - c) education.
- 2** Marriage is a special relationship because of its
 - a) union of a man and a woman.
 - b) provision of friendship.
 - c) division of labor.
- 3** God's Word shows the sacredness of marriage by stressing that
 - a) while a married man may desire another man's wife he may not commit adultery.
 - b) local customs regarding marriage should be adhered to.
 - c) a married person may neither desire another's spouse nor commit adultery.
- 4** The sexual urge that draws a man and woman to each other was created by
 - a) God.
 - b) the world.
 - c) Satan.
- 5** God expects us to refrain from immoral acts both before and after marriage in order to show respect for our
 - a) parents.
 - b) friends.
 - c) bodies.
- 6** Which of the following statements is true?
 - a) Christians are free from temptation.
 - b) God gives Christians power to overcome temptation.
 - c) Christians overcome temptation by willpower.
- 7** Joseph is an example of a man who
 - a) was not tempted by lust.
 - b) ran from temptation.
 - c) yielded to temptation.
- 8** The choice of a marriage partner is important because your partner will
 - a) be a life companion.
 - b) reflect your social status.
 - c) make up for your deficiencies.
- 9** Bible standards for choosing a marriage partner focus on
 - a) the sole requirement of believers marrying believers.
 - b) marrying a Christian and having similar backgrounds.
 - c) being in agreement on basics and marrying a Christian.
- 10** The most important personal qualities to consider in choosing a marriage partner are
 - a) age, education, talents.
 - b) maturity, appearance, status.
 - c) character, habits, interests.

- 11** Which would be MOST desirable in a life companion?
- Trusting and forgiving attitudes
 - Education and social prestige
 - Beauty and wealth
- 12** God's leading regarding the choice of a marriage partner often comes as it did in the case of Ruth and Boaz, that is, in the form of
- advice of parents or other older, more experienced people.
 - a personal revelation through a dream.
 - an extremely strong physical attraction between two people.
- 13** The kind of love that one must seek in choosing a marriage partner is that which provides a sense of
- excitement in being together.
 - belonging to each other.
 - having one's needs met.
- 14** One can have assurance of God's will in choosing a marriage partner when he/she
- experiences a feeling of peace.
 - finds someone who has all the right qualities.
 - agrees to marry any eligible Christian.
- 15** The engagement period before marriage is a time to check on
- whether or not one's chosen partner is a Christian.
 - compatibility in sexual intimacy.
 - willingness to make necessary adjustments.
- 16** Engagement customs will prove to be an obstacle for a Christian couple if the customs
- are light-hearted.
 - are dishonoring to God.
 - require a celebration.
- 17** The actual marriage of the engaged couple should involve
- the fulfillment of civil requirements as well as a religious ceremony.
 - only a religious ceremony in a church if the couple is Christian.
 - only a civil ceremony in order to cut down on expenses.
- 18** The importance of the home is its
- providing for the birth and development of children.
 - being an influence upon the parents' character development.
 - reflecting of the values of the local community.
- 19** Necessary adjustments following marriage include
- receiving no further advice from either set of parents.
 - giving the husband full responsibility for managing the money.
 - thinking in terms of what is best for both, not one.
- 20** Family worship should begin when the
- couple first gets married.
 - children can understand it.
 - first child is born.

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** The God-given responsibility of the husband is to
 - a) be accountable to God for what happens in the home.
 - b) exercise absolute authority over his home.
 - c) hide his shortcomings from his family.
- 2** A husband may demonstrate unselfish love to his wife by
 - a) complementing her on her cooking.
 - b) feeling her hurt when she hurts.
 - c) treating her with consideration.
- 3** The Christ-church relationship is a pattern of
 - a) the husband-wife relationship.
 - b) the mother-child relationship.
 - c) the employer-employee relationship.
- 4** When a married couple has a problem, they should
 - a) pray together and work out a solution.
 - b) ignore the problem and it will disappear.
 - c) go to their parents for direction first.
- 5** Scripture teaches that a husband fulfills his responsibility to take care of his family when he sees to their
 - a) physical needs.
 - b) spiritual needs.
 - c) physical and spiritual needs.
- 6** If a wife loves and respects her husband, she will
 - a) correct his faults often.
 - b) obey him willingly.
 - c) tell him what to do in every situation.
- 7** A woman can cause her husband to enjoy their home by
 - a) cheerfully doing her best within her means.
 - b) comparing her life with those who have more.
 - c) buying expensive furnishings even if it means going into debt.
- 8** A wife's first responsibility is to
 - a) make her home happy.
 - b) maintain her appearance.
 - c) help provide for the family.
- 9** What Moses, Samuel, and Timothy had in common growing up was the
 - a) best available instruction.
 - b) ability to lead others.
 - c) influence of a godly mother.
- 10** The wife who serves outside the home must
 - a) have superhuman strength and wisdom.
 - b) be organized and have her husband's help.
 - c) maintain all her responsibilities at home.

- 11** What does God promise obedient children?
- a) Happiness
 - b) Heaven
 - c) Long life
- 12** Having children help in the home is a good way to
- a) discipline them for disobedience.
 - b) lessen the work load on the parents.
 - c) help them assume responsibility.
- 13** Children should be encouraged to accept Jesus as Savior
- a) as soon as they know what sin is.
 - b) after they have received adequate Bible training.
 - c) when they learn to talk and can repeat the sinner's prayer.
- 14** People should learn to worship God
- a) during the teen-age years.
 - b) in early childhood.
 - c) when they become adults.
- 15** If your parents are not Christians, you should
- a) consider yourself free from their authority.
 - b) obey them under all conditions.
 - c) obey them except when they want you to disobey God.
- 16** In order to fulfill their duty of loving their children, parents must have the attitude that
- a) God must know what He is doing.
 - b) children are a gift from God.
 - c) it is better to give than receive.
- 17** Parents' home training of their children should begin at
- a) birth.
 - b) age six.
 - c) adolescence.
- 18** The discipline of children is so important that parents need to
- a) punish their children for even tiny wrongs.
 - b) correct their children in a spirit of love.
 - c) be rigidly disciplined themselves in their life-style.
- 19** A family's needs of love, faithfulness, forgiveness, and prayer can be met in
- a) regular communication.
 - b) family worship.
 - c) private devotions.
- 20** The greatest protection of the family against spiritual disaster is the parents' providing for the spiritual needs of their children through
- a) discipline of them.
 - b) dedication of them.
 - c) family worship.

End of requirements for Unit Two. Please return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit Two to your ICI instructor. Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.

Marriage and the Home

Answer Sheet for Unit One

CL6260

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

Age Sex

Occupation

How many members are in your family?

How many years have you studied in school?

If you are a member of a church, what is the name of your church?
.....

.....

What responsibility do you have in your church?

.....

How are you studying this course: Alone? In a group?

What other ICI courses have you studied?
.....

.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT ONE

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....
.....
.....

Now look over this answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your ICI instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page of your study guide.

For ICI Office Use Only
Date Score

Christian Life Program

Marriage and the Home

Answer Sheet for Unit Two

CL6260

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The ICI office in your area will be happy to send you information about other courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT TWO

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....

.....

.....

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We have enjoyed having you as a student and hope you will study more courses with ICI. Return this student report answer sheet to your instructor or to the ICI office in your area. When we have checked your answers, we will send you a certificate for this course in your program of studies.

Please print your name below as you want it to appear on your certificate.

Name

For ICI Office Use Only
Date Score

Christian Life Program

CL6260 Marriage and the Home

Decision Report and Request Card

After studying this course, I have placed my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I am returning this card with my signature and address to your ICI office for two reasons: first, to testify to my commitment to Christ and, second, to request information about more material to help me in my spiritual life.

NAME.....

ADDRESS

.....

SIGNATURE



**THE GREATEST OF ALL
IS THE SERVANT OF ALL**

Serving is one of the greatest ways we can show our love to God. ICI courses prepare you to better serve others.

Using our courses will create an orderly system of Bible study and encourage a better understanding of spiritual truths.

To begin preparing for God's service, we suggest enrolling in courses offered from our **Christian Service Program**.

Some courses from the **Christian Service Program** are:

- THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE
- GOD LOVES YOU
- WHO JESUS IS
- WE BELIEVE
- GOD'S DESIGN—YOUR CHOICE
- CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
- PERSONAL EVANGELISM
- ALIVE IN CHRIST
- CHRISTIAN MATURITY

If you desire a more detailed description about each course or directions on how to enroll in any of these courses, contact your local ICI director.

**SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES
OF YOUR FRIENDS**

We will send them Lesson 1 of
“The Great Questions of Life.”

Print Clearly

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Name

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City.....

Province or State

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E-mail.....

Your Name

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