

Family

July 28, 2021	Christian Living
August 4 2021	Prayer
August 11, 2021	Worship
August 18, 2021	The Church
August 25, 2021	Stewardship
September 1, 8, 15, 2021	Family
September 22, 2021	The World
September 29, 2021	Evangelism

Goal: to see that the institution of marriage is God’s plan, not a man-made invention

Read Genesis 2:4-7, 15-18.

1. Nowhere in Scripture are we told that God gave these instructions to Eve. What did God obviously intend Adam to do?
2. Throughout Genesis 1, God had said that everything was “good.” Adam was living in Paradise. He was the master of all living creatures. And yet in Genesis 2:18, God says, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” What are some blessings that Adam would not experience as long as he was “alone”?
3. What does the word “helper” tell us about God’s purpose for bringing man and woman together in marriage?
4. What does the term “suitable” tell us about God’s intentions for the relationship between husband and wife?

Bible notes

In Genesis 2:17, underline the phrase “you will surely die.” In the margin, write “Obedience to God equals life; disobedience equals death.”

Read Genesis 2:19-25.

1. What was God trying to show Adam by having all the animals come before him?
2. God created Adam out of the earth, but he created Eve out of Adam. What point would this drive home for Adam and Eve? Did Adam understand this significance?
3. The blessings of marriage are sometimes summarized as: companionship, children, and chastity. Is there one that is more important than the others?
4. What does this lesson have to say to the following people?
 - a. Whenever Kari has a problem, her husband James is one of the last people that she talks to. He is so consumed with work; Kari doesn’t think he listens to her. Instead, she calls one of her girlfriends or her sister.
 - b. Matt and Julie have recently found out they cannot have any kids. They are crushed. They feel like their marriage is not complete.

Bible notes

In Genesis 2:23, underline the phrase, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” In the margin, write, “This is the attitude of marital love.”

In verse 24, underline “will leave” and “be united.” In the margin, write, “Marriage involves leaving and cleaving.”

Goal: to see why we will want to keep God at the center of the family

Read Joshua 24:1-15.

1. In these verses the LORD, through Joshua, recounts the history of the Israelites all the way back to when God called Abraham to live in the land of Canaan. What is the purpose of this review of history?

Bible notes

In Joshua 24:2,3 underline the words, "...worshiped other gods. But I took..." In the margin, write, "God moved Abraham so he could raise his family in the ways of the LORD."

2. What are some events in your life that you might point to as evidence of God's goodness? Did your family play a role in your receiving these benefits?
3. "Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped." If your extended family has traditions or practices that get in the way of your worship of the LORD, what should you do with those traditions and practices?
4. Joshua is referring to actual idols, false gods made of wood and stone. What are some modern idols we might need to throw away in our family?
5. "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." What is the relationship between this statement and the first thirteen verses of this chapter?
6. Make a list of some basic ways that you and your household can serve the LORD. Share them with your family. Ask them to add ideas to the list.

- Goals: 1) to see that raising a family without the LORD is futile**
2) to see the children are a blessing from God

Read Psalm 127:1-5.

1. Do you know any families that prosper (“build a house”) and avoid danger (“stand guard”) even though they have no relationship with the LORD? How long will that prosperity last? How long will the members of that family avoid danger?

Bible notes

In the margin next to Psalm 127:1,2, write, “None of our efforts will prosper without the LORD’s blessing.”

2. In 1 Timothy 5:8 Paul writes, “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” In the immediate context of that passage Paul is referring to caring for elderly parents or grandparents. In light of our lesson for today, what is another way a person could fail to “provide for” his family?
3. What is the difference between a “reward” and a “heritage”? In what way do children serve as both of these things?
4. “Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.” Put this statement together with the first part of the psalm, which we said demonstrates the importance of doing a job with the LORD. Why does a Christian feel that having children is a blessing?
5. Does our society understand that children are a blessing? Point to examples from society to support your answer.
6. In Romans 10:17 Paul writes, “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”
 - a. Does God make it the parents’ responsibility to create faith in the hearts of their children?
 - b. What is the only thing parents can do to provide spiritually for their children?

Goal: to understand the high honor that God expects us to give to marriage

Read Matthew 19:1-9.

1. In verse 7 the Pharisees say that “Moses commanded” divorce. In verse 8 Jesus corrects them: “Moses permitted” divorce because “your hearts were hard.” Look up Zechariah 7:12. What exactly is a “hardness of heart”?
2. Who alone has the right to end marriage? When does that happen?
3. Jesus doesn’t define “marital unfaithfulness” in this portion of Scripture. Look up the following passages and tell us what they add to our understanding of marital unfaithfulness.
 - a. Hebrews 13:4 –
 - b. 1 Corinthians 7:15 –
 - c. Malachi 2:16a –
4. Consider the following situation. Jim would never consider cheating on his wife. He knows how much it would hurt her and does not want to put her through that. But Jim feels he has “needs” that his wife can’t satisfy. So he turns to pornography to meet those needs. “That isn’t really cheating,” he reasons.
 - a. Look up Matthew 5:27-30. Compare those verses to what you read in Matthew 19:6. Why would God consider a “wandering eye” and a “lustful heart” so offensive? What do Jim’s actions say to God?
 - b. How will Jim get past this problem? (Look up Acts 3:19-20 and Philippians 4:13 for help.)

Bible notes

In Matthew 19:3, underline the phrase, “for any and every reason.” In the margin, write, “The Pharisees wanted to know if ‘no fault’ divorces were biblical.”

In Matthew 19:6, underline the phrase, “What God has joined together, let man not separate.” In the margin, write, “No human, not even the couple, has the right to end a marriage.”

Goal: to see that God gives different roles to husbands, wives, parents, and children

Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

1. Paul begins this section of Scripture by giving an overarching instruction in verse 21. What is that instruction? Rephrase that instruction in your own words.
2. Paul then instructs women to recognize their husband's "headship." In 1 Corinthians 11:3 Paul writes, "The head of Christ is God." How does that passage demonstrate that biblical "headship" does not mean "superiority" or "dominance"? What do you think headship means then?
3. Why does the Church submit to Christ?
 - a. Christ has won the complete confidence of the Church to be a perfect leader.
 - b. The Church is Christ's slave.
 - c. A lack of submission leads to punishment.
 - d. Christ has motivated the Church to submit to him by showing unfailing love.
4. What does this tell us about a wife's submission to her husband?
5. Paul instructs men to "love your wives, just as Christ loved the church." What are some adjectives you would use to describe the love that Christ has for the Church?
6. Paul also writes, "Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body..." (verse 28). What is the logic behind this "selfish" reason for husbands to love their wives?
7. Some people would look at this portion of Scripture and say, "This is so old fashioned! It's foolishness." Therefore, try this exercise.

List five ways a wife could submit to her husband

List five ways a husband could show Christ-like love to his wife

8. Now answer the following two questions.
 - a. If couples made these ten things on your list regular habits in marriage, how much divorce would there be?
 - b. When the things on that list aren't carried out, does the fault lie with God's plan?

Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

1. What is the difference between a child obeying a parent and a child obeying a parent "in the Lord"?
2. Why do children's obedience and a happy life go hand in hand?
3. What does "exasperate" mean? What are some ways parents can exasperate their children? What specific instruction does God give to parents?

Family Addendum #1

HEADSHIP & SUBMISSION

1 Corinthians 11:3 & Ephesians 5:24

Christ submits to God...

God the Father's mission —
redeem the world that was lost in sin

mission

sub -

Christ's response —
to pay for sin on the cross

The Church submits to Christ...

Christ's mission —
to pay for sin on the cross

mission

sub -

The Church's response —
share the good news (baptizing & teaching)

The wife submits to the husband...

The husband's mission —
?

mission

sub -

The wife's response —
?

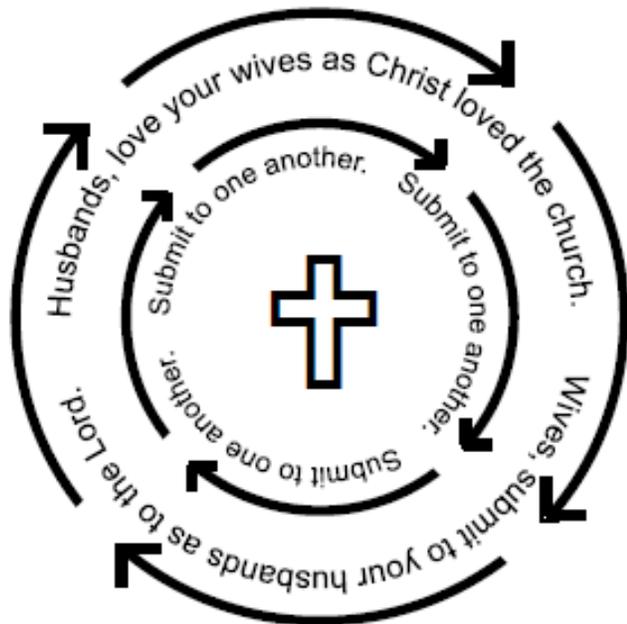
Family Addendum #2

**GOD'S ROLES FOR
HUSBANDS & WIVES**

PARENTS & CHILDREN

REVOLVE AROUND SELFLESS, CHRISTIAN LOVE

Husbands & Wives...



Parents & Children...

