# Marriage and the Home





CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

# Marriage and the Home

6th edition

by Rex Jackson



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Developed in cooperation with Global University staff

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PN 06.10

ISBN 978-0-7617-1310-4

www.globaluniversity.edu www.globalreach.org

Printed in the United States of America

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#### **Christian Life Series**

Your New Life

Your Bible

Who Jesus Is

The Church

Personal Evangelism

Bible Ethics

When You Pray

How to Study the Bible

Your Helpful Friend

Christian Worship

**Christian Workers** 

#### Marriage and the Home

God's Design—Your Choice

John's Gospel

We Believe

What Churches Do

The Teaching Ministry

The Christian in His Community

#### **PREFACE**

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 will not 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.

Rex Jackson

#### THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

Marriage and the Home is one of 18 courses in this practical discipleship program for new believers. The Christian Life Series is a study to help students grow in their relationship with Christ, interact with the Word of God, and better understand God's purposes for their life.

Students will study basic Christian topics under six reoccurring themes. The courses are conversational in style and easy to read. The following chart illustrates how the units of study are organized for the Christian Life Series.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Spiritual Life	Your New Life	When You Pray	God's Design, Your Choice
The Bible	Your Bible	How to Study the Bible	John's Gospel
Theology	Who Jesus Is	Your Helpful Friend	We Believe
The Church	The Church	Christian Worship	What Churches Do
Service	Personal Evangelism	Christian Workers	The Teaching Ministry
Christian Ethics	Bible Ethics	Marriage and the Home	The Christian in His Community

# Before You Begin

#### How to Use this Book

This book is divided into lessons instead of chapters. Each lesson begins with two important pages. After the lesson number are the title and a short introduction to the lesson. On the next page is *Lesson Outline*. This is the outline or plan for the lesson. It is a list of what you can expect to study in the lesson.

Next are **Lesson Objectives**. The lesson objectives are guidelines for what you should be able to do after studying the lesson. Read them carefully; they will help you focus on the most important points in the lesson.

To help you achieve your objectives, each lesson has questions and activities. The subheading *Application* signals you to answer questions on the material learned. Do not skip over this part. Writing out the answers will help you apply what you have learned. Most of the questions can be answered right in your book. If there is not enough room to write your answers in the book, write them in a notebook or journal that you can use to review the lessons later.

After answering a question, check the answer at the end of the lesson in the section marked **Answers to Study Questions**. Do not look ahead at the answers until you have written your own answer. This will help you remember what you study much better. Compare your answers to those given at the end of the lesson; then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are in a jumbled order so that you will not easily see the answer to the next question. At the end of each lesson, complete the **Self-Test**. Answers to the self-test are at the end of the study guide.

# How to Answer Study Questions

This course uses many different kinds of questions. Below are samples of the three most common types and how to answer them.

#### MULTIPLE-CHOICE

A multiple-choice question asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

#### Example

- **1** The Bible has a total of
- **a)** 100 books.
- **b)** 66 books.
- **c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is b) 66 books.

In your study guide, make a circle around b) as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- **a)** 100 books.
- **b** 66 books.
- **c)** 27 books.
- **d)** 2 books.

#### TRUE-FALSE

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

#### Example

- **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.

#### MATCHING

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

- **3** Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.
- ..l... a) Received the Law at Mt. Sinai
- 1. Moses
- 2..b) Led the Israelites across the Jordan
- 2. Joshua

- 2. c) Marched around Jericho
- ..l... 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.

# Suggestions for Studying

- 1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. It will be easier to concentrate if study is part of your daily habits.
- Pray as you begin each study session. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and this course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you understand the lesson and apply it to your life.
- 3. Carefully read the lesson introduction, the lesson plan, and the goals.
- 4. Begin to carefully read the lesson. Look up Bible references and take any notes that may be helpful. The Bible verses reinforce important points in the lesson.
- 5. Answer the study questions in the spaces provided. Use your notebook or journal when necessary.

- 6. Think about what you have learned and look for ways to apply it in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible study, etc.
- 7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.

#### Unit Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will find the Unit Evaluations. Questions and Answer Sheets are clearly marked for each unit. Carefully follow the directions given. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections. If you are not studying with a Global University office you will still benefit by completing the Unit Evaluations.

## Ways to Study this Course

This course has been written so that you can study it by yourself. We like to say that the teacher is in the book. However, you may also study this course in various group settings such as mid-week Bible studies, learning centers, home groups, and youth programs. This course can be used as a correspondence or resource tool for prison ministries as well as special ethnic or other community outreach programs. You will find both the content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Be sure to use the address of your Global University office. If you are studying in a group or through a Discipleship Training Center, be sure to follow any additional instructions that your instructor may give.

In addition, your church may partner with Global University to open a Discipleship Training Center. Visit us online at www. globaluniversity.edu for more information and start up helps.

#### Certificate

Unit or individual certificates are available to students upon successful completion of our courses. For instance, if you are studying through a National Office or Discipleship Training Center, you may receive a certificate from your Global University instructor. If you are studying on your own, you may mail your completed Unit Evaluation Answer Sheets to your local office. National Offices and Discipleship Training Centers may order certificates through the International Office or through GPH in the USA.

## Additional Helps

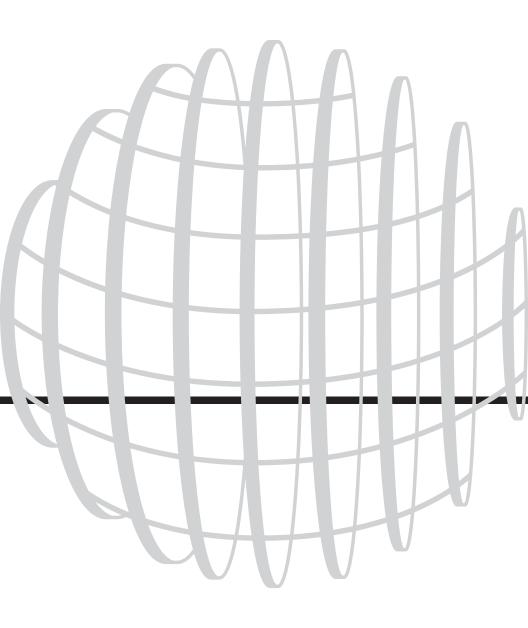
The School for Evangelism and Discipleship (SED) Catalog, Discipleship Training Center Manual, the Study Center Agreement Form, and the SED Order Form are available online for print downloads. Other materials available for this course include supplemental audiocassettes.

Visit us at www.globaluniversity.edu and www.globalreach.org for additional resources.

#### **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 also served as a missionary in Nigeria for 25 years. He wrote various kinds of church-related literature, including this course and *John's Gospel*.



## <u>Lessons</u>

- 1 What Marriage Is
- 2 Before Marriage
- 3 Choosing a Companion
- 4 Engagement and Wedding
- 5 Establishing a Home

# 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 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.

#### The Plan

A. Marriage: A God-given Institution

B. Marriage: A Special Relationship

C. Marriage: A Sacred Union

D. Marriage: Importance for the World

#### The Goals

- 1. Explain when God instituted marriage and why.
- 2. Describe God's plan and pattern for marriage.
- 3. State the far-reaching effects of the family.

#### A. MARRIAGE: A GOD-GIVEN INSTITUTION

# Given by God as a Blessing for Man

Goal 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.

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man." (Genesis 2:18, 21–22)

	What is the only institution on earth that was established fore 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 that a man and a woman "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

In giving Eve as a companion for Adam, God 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 people in all times.

God is pleased to have people marry, but He has standards for marriage. He expects His people to follow these standards. Unfortunately, sin entered the Garden of Eden, and ever since then, sin has been hindering many of the blessings that God has given humans. Sin has also ruined millions of marriages.

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 happens only as you honor Him, by seeking His guidance and following His pattern.

The Bible gives us much teaching about marriage and the home. 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. 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.

# **Application**

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.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:31–33)

- 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
- **b)** Discontent
- c) Anger
- d) Strife
- e) Understanding
- f) Joy
- **8** Will you pray that God will help you to build the kind of marriage that reflects His love? .....

#### B. Marriage: A Special Relationship

# Belonging to Each Other for Life

**Goal 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 in a way that pleases God. When a man and woman are united in marriage, they become one.

# **Application**

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

<b>10</b> A man	and woman are bound	together both	
	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 did not take a bone from Adam's foot so that he could trample on his wife. He did not 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. Ephesians 5:28 says, "In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

# **Application**

- **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 increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28).

When children are born into a family, the parents have the responsibility of caring for them and providing a stable and harmonious home life. 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.

# **Application**

**12** Circle the letter before each TRUE statement.

13 What do children need to receive in a home?

- **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.

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## C. MARRIAGE: A SACRED UNION

#### 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 and God's ideal for marriage.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matthew 19:5–6)

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, customs do not offer a practical guide for the godly marriage. For that you have to go to God's Word.

# **Application**

<b>14</b> According to the Bible	e, God's model o	or ideal for marriage
provides	wife for	man. The
thus join	ned make up th	e basic family unit.

# God's Laws about Marriage

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: "You shall not commit adultery . . . You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" (Exodus 20:14, 17).

Either marriage partner who has sexual relations with another person commits adultery and is breaking God's law. This is immoral. Even desiring someone else's wife or husband is a sin. "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed 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).

## **Application**

**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.

#### D. MARRIAGE: IMPORTANCE FOR THE WORLD

**Goal 3.** State the far-reaching effects of the family.

Looking back over this lesson you can see that marriage is part of God's plan for humankind. 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 live 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.

# **Application**

- **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 **c)** 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
- **16c)** 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.

# 2 Before Marriage

God's standards of right and wrong are intended to make His sons and daughters fit and able to live to the fullest. First Corinthians 9:24–27 reminds us that a runner undergoes strict discipline 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 humans 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.

#### The Plan

- A. God Prepares You for Marriage
- B. God Expects You to Keep Pure
- C. You Can Keep God's Standards

#### The Goals

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

#### A. GOD PREPARES YOU FOR MARRIAGE

**Goal 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 and 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 the child 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 part of God's plan to prepare them for marriage.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).

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.

# **Application**

	Is it wrong for a young man to feel attracted to a young oman? Explain your answer.
2	Who gave us the sexual urge?
••••	
3	Who has the right to say how the sexual urge must be used?
••••	

#### B.GOD EXPECTS YOU TO KEEP PURE

For God to Live in You

**Goal 2.** Name some of the ill effects of those who disregard God's standard.

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. First Timothy 5:22 advises, "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 may be deprived of the love and care of both parents.

	Name three reasons why God expects you to keep pure.
a) b)	A verse in the Bible which tells us to keep pure is 1 Corinthians 6:16. 1 Timothy 5:22. Genesis 3:15.
6	According to 1 Corinthians 6:15, the Christian's body is a part of
	What can a Christian home provide for children that children rn outside of marriage may not have?
	Name at least two defects which children may have as a result the immorality of their parents.
••••	

#### For the Sake of Your Health

Do not 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 does not 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.

Flee from sexual immorality . . . he who sins sexually sins against his own body (1 Corinthians 6:18).

<b>9</b> What specific sin mentioned in this part of the lesson is a sin against a man's own body?
<b>10</b> Name three things mentioned in Proverbs 7 to which the man led astray by an immoral woman is compared.
<b>11</b> How do premarital sex relations endanger the health of a person?

#### C. YOU CAN KEEP GOD'S STANDARDS

# By Controlling Your Feelings

**Goal 3.** Give the scriptural basis for ways to keep oneself pure.

Learning self-control is a very important part of growing up. Self-control is also an essential part of a happy marriage. Thus, God gives each person the opportunity throughout his or her adolescent years to develop self-control. Second Timothy 1:7 says, "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

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.

Do not say that you cannot control your desires. God has given you a spirit that makes you different from the animals. You do not have to be a slave to your feelings. God gave you the following 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.

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22)

- **12** The best source of help in controlling your desires is
- a) your conscience.
- **b)** your intelligence.
- c) God's Word.

## 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.

Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:14–15)

Many of your thoughts come from what you hear. So do not listen to dirty stories or take part in conversation that would lead you toward immoral living. Paul teaches,

Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. (Ephesians 5:3)

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, some types of dance, and suggestive fashions in clothing to tempt people. Do not let him persuade you to participate in these things. Be extremely cautious about where you go on the internet. Internet pornography is easy to find and is very addictive. It will consume your life if you indulge in it.

Guard your thoughts and do not 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. Paul writes,

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

# Application

<b>13</b> Why is it important that you control your thoughts?
<b>14</b> 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 when faced by it. Do not go into places and situations that will tempt you to do wrong. Also, 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.

Live by God's standards—not those of the worldly TV programs and 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 physical passions. So avoid temptation and do not 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 to seduce him. But Joseph refused: "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9). 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.

They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (1 Peter 4:4–5)

## **Application**

- **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.)

<b>17</b> How should members	of the opposite	e 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.

Do not 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 does not 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.

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God. (1 Thessalonians 4:3–5)

# **Application**

<b>18</b> What does true love include?
<b>19</b> 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, sin in your heart will come out in evil thoughts and wrong behavior. "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander" (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.

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. (1 Peter 4:1–2)

# **Application**

	Is it impossible to live up to God's standards for our lives? blain your answer.
	What is the very first step you must take before God can help live right?
circ	Read 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 and 1 Peter 4:2 several times; then the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
b)	You need to be saved so that Satan will no longer tempt you. Only as we depend upon God for help are we able to overcome temptation.
	Because God is a God of love, nobody will be kept out of His kingdom.

## Check Your Answers

- 12c) God's Word.
  - **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
- **15b)** 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** 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 a venereal disease or may experience guilt and fear.

# Schoosing 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, "The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs" (Isaiah 58:11).

Prayer and an honest look at what the Bible has to say about marriage have saved many young people from making unhappy choices. 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.

## The Plan

- A. Importance of the Choice
- B. God's Leading and Standards
- C. Personal Qualities
- D. Circumstances
- E. Mutual Love and Acceptance
- F. Assurance of God's Will

#### The Goals

- 1. Give two reasons why the choice of a marriage partner is vital.
- 2. List ways in which God leads us in the choice of a life companion.
- 3. Identify the personal qualities a husband or wife should have.
- 4. Examine the kinds of assistance that God will provide for believers seeking a marriage partner.
- 5. Identify key qualities that distinguish true love from emotional or physical attraction.

## A. IMPORTANCE OF THE CHOICE

**Goal 1.** Give two reasons why the choice of a marriage partner is vital.

The choice of the person who is to be your partner for life is extremely important. 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 pull you away from God, who is the only source of true joy.

Secondly, this choice is important because it is for life. Christians do not get married with the idea that they can always get a divorce if they cannot get along together. If you have a bicycle or a car that you do not like, you can sell it and get another one. But

you cannot do that with a wife or husband. The Bible teaches that marriage is for life. Mark writes, "What God has joined together, let man not separate" (Mark 10:9). Later the apostle Paul noted:

By law, a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. (Romans 7:2)

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 basic principles to follow in making the choice so that the marriage will be happy.

# **Application**

	Give two reasons that the choice of a husband or wife is so portant.
	Where can you find the basic principles to follow in the choice a life partner?
• • • • •	

## B. God's Leading and Standards

# God's Willingness to Lead

**Goal 2.** List 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.

# **Application**

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 ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault" (James 1:5).

3 What should you do before choosing a life partner?

•	What should you do be	fore choosing a me partner:
		<

#### How God Leads

How does God let a person know whom he or she 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.

# **Application**

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

#### BIBLICAL STANDARDS

First and most important is the way in which God leads you through His Word. In the Bible He gives 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 both potential spouses 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. The apostle Paul instructs,

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)

We read in the Bible about two promising young men who made the mistake of marrying wives who did not believe in the One True God. They were Samson and Solomon. Samson was attracted to a young woman who was not of his spiritual belief. 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. Do not let this lead you into courtship with an unsaved person. Choose your close friends among Christians. Do not let Satan sidetrack you from God's will and ruin your life by getting you bound in marriage to an unbeliever.

# **Application**

- **5** Circle the letter in front of the names of the two young men in the Bible 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 someone listen to you to see if you recite it correctly.
- **7** What is the message of 2 Corinthians 6:14 to a Christian?

## Potential Spouses Must Agree

While it is important to marry a Christian, there are also other things to consider. The Bible teaches that you cannot 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 should not expect that. But husband and wife should agree on basic principles.

Do you and the person that you hope to marry agree on biblical standards for your home, on how to discipline children, on the responsibilities of husband and wife, on how to handle your money? If not, 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 in His Word

# **Application**

- **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 biblical 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

## C. Personal Qualities

## Importance of Qualities

**Goal 3.** 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 want their future wife to be beautiful, talented, and wealthy. But while some of these things may be desirable, 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. And 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.

# **Application**

**11** Name two qualities which do not 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?

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 or she 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 do not base your judgment of the person's character entirely on the family that he or she comes from.

# Application

- **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, do not think that things will be better after you are married. Do not 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 are not really important. And in things that are important they should help one another. But do not 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? Does he or she talk all the time or listen with interest to what others have to say? How does he or she treat his or her brothers, sisters, and parents? Does the potential spouse take seriously responsibilities to God and the church?

# Application

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.

## 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.

# **Application**

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

Many countries require a medical examination and health certificate before marriage. This is to protect you from entering into marriage with someone who may have unknown or unrevealed health problems.

This does not mean that a person has to have perfect health to get married. Many with physical needs are great husbands, wives, and parents. Good health is not the most important quality to look for, but it should be considered. If you plan to have children, ask yourself if your future wife or husband will be a good mother or a good father.

# **Application**

<b>18</b> Why is the physical and n important?	nental health of your life companion

# D. CIRCUMSTANCES

**Goal 4.** 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 love stories in the Bible.

For example, Ruth left her 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 wanted in a wife. There were some obstacles to their marriage, but God worked everything out. Everyone cooperated and they were able to get married (Ruth 1–4).

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 did not 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 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 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 (Genesis 24).

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.

Appli	cati	on
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<b>19</b> Name two couples in the B by circumstances.	ible whom God brought together

## E. MUTUAL LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

**Goal 5.** Identify 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. Do not 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 cannot be 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 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.

So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said. . . . Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her. (Genesis 24:58, 67)

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

# Application

<b>20</b> 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.

## F. ASSURANCE OF GOD'S WILL

God's leading does not usually come through a special revelation, but rather through the combination of ways that we have mentioned: biblical 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 should not 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. Do not be in too much of a hurry. Test your feeling by the other ways that God uses to lead you. Do not worry if you do not 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 and lead you in the ways that He sees best to the person of His choice for you.

# **Application**

- **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** Statements b) and d) are true.
- **20** Respect, honor, appreciation, consideration
- **10**c) Before their engagement, so that the disagreements may be resolved or the relationship terminated.
- 21 a) combination of ways

# 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.

## The Plan

- A. Readiness for Marriage
- B. Engagement Customs
- C. The Wedding

#### The Goals

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

## A. READINESS FOR MARRIAGE

**Goal 1.** Identify specific ways to honor God during the period of engagement.

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.

# **Application**

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

## B. ENGAGEMENT CUSTOMS

**Goal 2.** Discuss some of the problems that may arise because of engagement customs.

# Judged by God's Standards

Marriage is usually preceded by an engagement, and 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 is to honor God and please Him in all things. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (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.

# **Application**

**2** What engagement customs may Christians feel free to follow?

<b>3</b> What should be the principal goal of the Christian in every area of his or her life?	
<b>4</b> 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 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.

# **Application**

	Name three possible problems which may result when couples not meet the demands of certain customs in their country?
6 I	Fill in the blanks to complete the sentence.
Chr	istian parents should consider
	nore 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, and to 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 the other person, the better they will know each other.

If love and respect are expected of husbands and wives, surely they are no less important for an engaged couple contemplating marriage. A young man and woman who love and respect each other will have an unselfish concern for the other's happiness and welfare. Each will do his or her 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?

Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. (Genesis 29:20)

# **Application**

	In your notebook, list at least two benefits of the period of gagement.
8	How did Jacob prove his love for Rachel?
••••	

## C. THE WEDDING

**Goal 3.** Distinguish between the purpose of the civil requirements for marriage and the religious ceremony.

## 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 people, for a couple to meet the civil requirements for legalizing their marriage. The apostle Paul advises, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men" (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.

An	oila	ation
-	P	

	ally married?	arily required for a couple to be	
••••			

# **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 each other 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.

## **Application**

- **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 Godordained 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) the church rules only.

## Check Your Answers

- **7** Any two: A couple gets to know each other better; they can set a good example for other young people; they can plan for their lives together; they can establish 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
- **10c)** 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.
- 12a) every human authority.
  - **6** the Christian character of the person their son or daughter is to marry.

# 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 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 learn 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.

A couple who recognizes that "unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1) and purposes to establish a home that will glorify God will find the rewards immeasurable.

## The Plan

- A. Importance of the Home
- B. Necessary Adjustments
- C. Christian and Non-Christian Homes

#### The Goals

- 1. Discuss some of the adjustments newly married couples must make and suggested ways for helping them make them.
- 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.
- 3. Give reasons why children need the stability of a home patterned after God's standards.
- Discuss the contrasts between the Christian and the non-Christian home.

## A. IMPORTANCE OF THE HOME

## The Home Defined

**Goal 1.** Discuss some of the adjustments newly married couples must make and suggested ways for helping them make them.

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.

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."

# **Application**

- 1 Circle the letter in front of the word or phrase that best describes 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

<b>2</b> When home is a place where children learn obedience, how does this help them later on?	
	••

## Importance to the Husband and Wife

**Goal 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 humankind'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 of daily life. 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 the husband and wife who seek God's daily guidance for their lives. Children in the home can bring great joy and fulfillment as "sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him" (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 he is unable to give her children. Whatever the reason, God is aware of 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 their prayer. For instance, 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). Also, today, many childless couples adopt children, and 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.

Who is like the Lord our God, . . . He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. (Psalm 113:5, 9)

# **Application**

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

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

	Name two people in the Bible whose prayers God answered	in
giv	ing them children.	
••••		••••

# Importance to the Child

**Goal 3.** Give reasons why children need the stability of a home patterned after God's standards.

A home is extremely important for a child, for children need the love, care, happiness, and protection of a Christian home. The training received there not only shapes their character, but also affects their entire outlook on life. Whatever dangers, problems, and disappointments children may face, they need the security of the home—where there are parents who understand, love, and take care of them. Thus, the child 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 or her physical health and development, the love of the family is equally important for the child's 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. 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 godly and ungodly parents.

Second Kings 21:20–21 records, "He [Amon] did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done. He walked in all the ways of his father; he worshiped the idols his father had worshiped, and bowed down to them." On the other hand, King Jehoshaphat was a good king whose early life had been influenced by godly parents.

The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways his father David had followed. He did not consult the Baals but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel. (2 Chronicles 17:3–4)

When you establish a home, 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 or her life, a child's character and 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. They are taught to be Godfearing, upright, and honest, so that they can be a blessing to the world. Therefore, Proverbs 22:6 advises, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

# **Application**

adjus	escribe the kind of home which helps a child develop a well- ted personality.
	arents teach their children both by their
	y their
	ow 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 world.

Ap	plic	ation

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## B. NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS

# Relationships of Husband and Wife

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

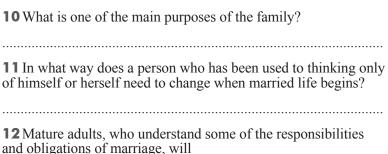
God understood man's need for companionship; therefore, He established the family. In the Garden, God looked at Adam and saw that it was not good for him to be alone, so He created Eve as a companion for him (Genesis 2:18). Later, in Proverbs 18:22, we learn that "he who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord." Yet many, having exchanged the marriage vows without having first considered the solemn responsibility of such a commitment.

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. So, 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 be disagreements, and neither husband nor 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 or her own plans and wishes, but love makes the adjustment possible. This is an essential part of marriage, and is necessary for a happy home!

# **Application**



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

## Relationship to Parents

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 the husband and wife. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife" (Mark 10:7).

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. 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. Nor must the husband lean on his parents for such emotional or other support.

## **Application**

- **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 have.

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. 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. (1 Timothy 5:8)

## **Application**

<b>14</b> In your notebook list at least	four things v	which cause	quarrels
about money in a marriage.	_		

**15** According to 1 Timothy 5:8, what does the Bible say about a man who does not provide for his family?

### C. CHRISTIAN AND NON-CHRISTIAN HOMES

**Goal 4.** Discuss the contrasts between the Christian and the non-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, and they care about one another. The husbands provide for their families; they are good neighbors; they help the poor and needy; and many of them are church members. But the vital ingredient is missing: they have never acknowledged that they are sinners and have never invited Christ into their lives and homes.

They are like the church to whom the angel said, "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked" (Revelation 3:17). This description can apply to anyone who does not recognize the need of God. Then, when the many heartaches and problems of life press in on 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.

## **Application**

**16** Circle the letter in front of the best completion to the sentence. Revelation 3:17 speaks of people being "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked," which is a picture of

- a) all people who do not recognize their need of God.
- **b)** families who lack the necessities of life because their money is wasted on liquor and drugs.
- c) those who have respectable and comfortable homes, but are not members of a church.

#### The Christian Home

Ideally, the 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 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.

Those families who purpose to honor God in their homes 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

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

## **Application**

17 The one who should be acknowledged as the supreme authority in the Christian home is
<b>18</b> What responsibility did God give to fathers before there were any churches?

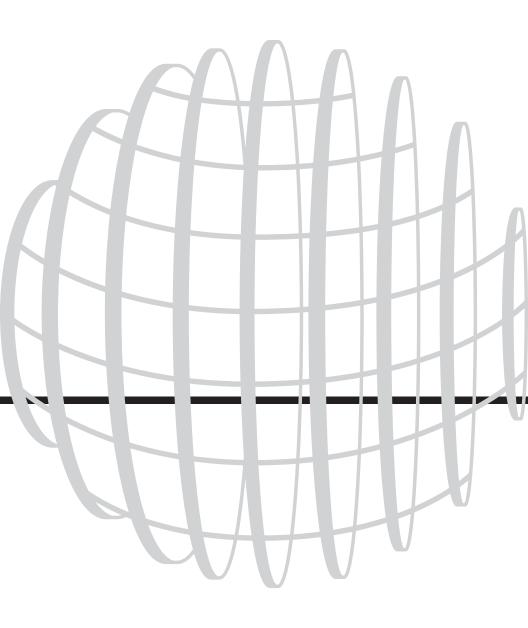
- 19 The words family altar refer to a
- **a)** time when a family read God's Word and pray together.
- **b)** special place in a church where a family can pray together.
- 20 Members of a Christian home are best recognized by their
- a) faithful church attendance.
- **b)** doing what is right in their 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. 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
- **12b)** will be better prepared to make necessary adjustments.
  - **2** It helps them to obey their teachers, their pastor, and the laws of their country.
- **13b)** 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.
- 19a) time when a family read God's Word. . .
  - **9** Training in the home.
- **20 c)** honoring and obeying God . . .
- **10** Companionship
- **21** Your answer





## **Lessons**

- 6 Duties of a Husband
- 7 Duties of a Wife
- 8 Duties of Children
- 9 Duties of Parents

# **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

#### The Plan

- A. To Be the Head of the Home
- B. To Love His Wife and Family

#### The Goals

- 1. Identify the husband's role in the home.
- 2. Discuss how a man can protect his home by properly assuming his responsibilities as husband and father.

#### A. To BE THE HEAD OF THE HOME

**Goal 1.** Identify the husband's role in the home.

## 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. Thus, 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.

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

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. (Ephesians 5:23)

# **Application**

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 must answer to God for what happens in his home.

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.

# **Application**

his wife?		•		

#### B. To Love His Wife and Family

**Goal 2.** Discuss how a man can protect his home by properly assuming his responsibilities as husband and father.

# To Have a Happy Life Together

The Bible says that he who finds a wife finds a good thing. A husband should think of his wife 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 spend all of his time in outside activities.

Proverbs 5:18 gives good advice for husbands: "May you rejoice in the wife of your youth." 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. 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.

# **Application**

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## 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 one another. 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. Paul writes, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

In some places, men treat their wives as a piece of property. 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.

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, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church. (Ephesians 5:28–29)

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. Colossians 3:19 instructs, "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 show love to his wife. 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 no gift can substitute for time itself.

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 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 oneself to God, the more love God will give that person, and the happier that home will be. True is the adage that the family who prays together stays together.

## **Application**

	Memorize Ephesians 5:25 and Colossians 3:19; then recite em to someone else.
5	What can protect a home from many dangers?
by	What should a husband and wife do if their love is threatened 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 and respectfully.

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. (1 Peter 3:7)

This verse teaches that a man can hinder 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 each other, and together they can build a home on the foundation of love, consideration, honesty, and trust.

## **Application**

an	What is one thing that can hinder a man's prayers being swered?
<b>8</b> wi	The husband is the head of the home. What may we say the fe is?

#### To Protect and Care for Her

In 1 Peter 3:7, the Bible speaks of the woman as the weaker partner. And 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.

## **Application**

<b>9</b> 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. Malachi 2:15 warns, "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 is the story of Hannah and Elkanah. Hannah was unable to give Elkanah a child, but he did not abuse her and send her away. 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. God heard and answered her prayer.

So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him." (1 Samuel 1:20)

# Application

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

# To Take Care of His Family

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.

## **Application**

**11** Memorize 1 Timothy 5:8 and 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.

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. Proverbs 17:25 says, "A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him." But "a wise son brings joy to his father" (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 son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death."

## **Application**

- **12** 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.
- **5** True love between the husband and wife
- **11** 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
- **12** Statement **b)** is true

# 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 and, in so doing, becomes a stabilizing influence in the home.

#### The Plan

- A. To Love Her Husband
- B. To Make the Home Happy

#### The Goals

- 1. Discuss the basic elements in the marriage relationship that will protect it in times of difficulty.
- 2. Describe the role of a wife in making the home happy.

#### A. To Love Her Husband

**Goal 1.** Discuss the basic elements in the marriage relationship that will protect it in times of difficulty.

## 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, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God" (Titus 2:4–5). So we see that God does expect wives to be submissive to their husbands. The wives' willingness to conform to this biblical admonition 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 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 each other. 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, a husband deserves his wife's respect.

Each one . . . must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)

There is no place in a home for abusive words between a husband and wife. They should not irritate or annoy each other by constant complaining and scolding. Certainly a wife should never ridicule, criticize, or scold her husband in the presence of others. Nor should a husband disrespect his wife in private or public. 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.

# **Application**

- **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

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,

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (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." Married couples must remain together in times of sickness and health, times of financial difficulties and in plenty, in good times and in 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. 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 rubies" (v. 10). She is pure and righteous, upright and honest, dependable. She is faithful to her husband in thought, word, and actions. "She brings him good, not 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, trusts, and sees as surpassing all other women (v. 29).

# Application

4	What is the bes	st source for	r finding	God's patte	rn for ma	rriage?

- **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	n what Old Testament book do we find a description of a
go	wife?

#### B. To Make the Home Happy

**Goal 2.** Describe the role of a wife in making the home happy.

# 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, and a sharp tone of voice are irritating and make everyone in the home unhappy. Proverbs 21:19 says, "Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife."

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.

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. (Proverbs 31:26, 28) As we continue the study of this lesson, we will discover many ways in which a wife is an example in her actions, deeds, and speech.

# **Application**

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

example?			

# By Being a Good Homemaker

Titus 2:5 implies that married women are to be good homemakers. A woman's first responsibility is to her family, caring for them and making the home happy. 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 about the right kinds of food. It is a joy for a woman who loves her family to keep the home pleasant and clean, 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.

## **Application**

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# By Careful Spending

The cheerfulness of a godly woman is reflected in everything she does. She may find it more difficult to be cheerful if she does not have the money 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 overspend the family income. If she trusts God, her joy will be in knowing that He will never abandon her and her family.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I will forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

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. 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 need, but first to be thankful for what they already have. Paul writes,

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

# **Application**

<b>10</b> 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.

# Loving and Training the Children

A mother has a special privilege and 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 arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her" (Proverbs 31:28), are a tribute to godly women who faithfully assume the role of wife and mother.

# **Application**

- **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

## Serving 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 lazy. 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 (Proverbs 31:20). God gives her strength and honor because she fears the Lord and obeys Him. "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come" (v. 25). This beauty of character is far better than a pretty face, for "beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (v. 30).

## **Application**

<b>13</b> 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 are disciplined to buy only what is necessary can save the family money; 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.
- **12b)** Moses, Samuel, and Timothy
  - **6** Proverbs
- **13** Her work at home should be organized, and she needs the help of her husband.

# 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" (Ephesians 6:1). One of the most valuable lessons a child can learn is respect for authority. And the lesson begins at home.

Jesus, through His obedience to the heavenly Father, made salvation available to all humankind. 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.

#### The Plan

- A. To Respect and Obey Their Parents
- B. To Help Their Parents
- C. To Love, Honor, and Obey God

#### The Goals

- 1. Give the scriptural basis for the responsibilities of children to their parents.
- 2. Show from Scripture who is responsible when children disobey their parents.
- 3. Explain how the attitude of children toward authority has farreaching effects outside the home.

#### A. To Respect and Obey Their Parents

**Goal 1.** Give the scriptural basis for the responsibilities of children to their parents.

#### 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:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1–3)

Children show their respect for their parents by obeying them. Every time 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, 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, for "a wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother" (Proverbs 10:1).

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.

# **Application**

- 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

**Goal 2.** Show from Scripture who is responsible when children disobey their parents.

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 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,

"I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." (Genesis 18:19).

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 the child 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. Proverbs 11:17 states, "A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself."

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

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.

# **Application**

me	Read 1 Timothy 3:4. What responsibility of a father is entioned here?
	Who 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, 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.

Then he [Jesus] went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. (Luke 2:51)

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

# **Application**

- **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

#### B. To Help Their Parents

# 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 or she 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.

# **Application**

- **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:

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. (John 19:26–27)

# **Application**

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

# C. To Love, Honor, and Obey God

**Goal 3.** Explain how the attitude of children toward authority has far-reaching effects outside the 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.

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

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; it becomes increasingly difficult for a person to turn from his or her past and accept Christ as he or she grows older.

# **Application**

9	When is the best time for a person to accept Jesus as 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.

All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord. (2 Chronicles 20:13)

The religious leaders became angry when they heard children in the temple shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David" (Matthew 21:15). So they asked Jesus if He had heard what the children were saying. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?"" (Matthew 21:16)

#### Application

- **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:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

There comes a time in the life of every Christian when putting God first 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 true Christian spirit, continuing to respect and honor the parents. As in other relationships in which a Christian finds his or her convictions at variance with an authority, the answer must be found by earnestly seeking God in prayer. God can resolve problems satisfactorily even when no human solution seems possible.

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

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5–6)

# **Application**

<b>11</b> What is a problem that confronts every Christian at some time in his or her life?
<b>12</b> What must he or she 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. 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 to our parents.
- 2 Your answer may be similar to this one. 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 the Old Testament.
- 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** The Christian's convictions are at variance with someone in authority over him or her.
  - **5** Your answer. 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.

# **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

#### The Plan

- A. To Love Their Children
- B. To Provide for Their Physical Needs
- C. To Educate Their Children
- D. To Provide for Their Spiritual Needs

#### The Goals

- 1. Describe how the love of parents affects their children and the parents themselves.
- 2. State reasons why parents must provide for the physical needs of their children as long as they are under their care.
- 3. Identify the three areas in which parents are to provide training and education for their children.
- 4. State what Christian parents must do to mold their children as the Bible commands

#### A. To Love Their Children

**Goal 1.** Describe how the love of parents affects their children and the parents themselves.

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 notes, "Children [are] a reward from him [God]."

Babies need love if they are to 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. The apostle Paul writes,

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1–2)

When parents are thoughtless and show more love for one child than another, this leads to jealousy and other problems. 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. Even in Scripture is there evidence of jealousy as Joseph's brothers wanted to get rid of him because their father treated him better than he did them. Read Genesis 37 for this account.

# **Application**

1	Memorize Psalm 127:3 and Ephesians 5:1–2.
	Name several ways in which parents express their love for eir children.
	What valuable lesson can parents learn from Genesis 37:3–4?

# B. To Provide for Their Physical Needs

**Goal 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 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.

# **Application**

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

# Clothing and Food

Good parents try to clothe their children comfortably and see that they are well fed. Preparing the right kind of food for her children is an important part of a mother's work. Children 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.

A	Application			
5	What kind of food do children need?			
•••				

#### C. To Educate Their Children

# Schooling

**Goal 3.** Identify 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.

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

# 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.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

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 and instruction.

# **Application**

7	When should a child's training begin?
8	By what age have most children acquired their life habits?
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.

The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother. (Proverbs 29:15)

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 do not—it can be a helpful, growing experience for the child.

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. (Proverbs 13:24)

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

The Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. (Proverbs 3:12)

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. Such rebellion may lead to crime, imprisonment, and even death.

In the Old Testament, we read of Eli and David, men of God who suffered shame, disgrace, and tragedy in their families because they did not 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 1 Samuel, God addressed Eli's failure to correct his sons:

"I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them." (1 Samuel 3:13)

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.

(His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.) (1 Kings 1:6)

# **Application**

- **10** Circle the letter in front of each statement made by a parent, which 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.

2 How did the priest Eli and King David fail in their	
esponsibility as fathers?	

#### D. To Provide for Their Spiritual Needs

**Goal 4.** State what Christian parents must do to mold their children as the Bible commands.

#### **Dedication of Children**

Parents have a solemn responsibility of molding and guiding the children God entrusts to 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 personal 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.

> "I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there. (1 Samuel 1:28)

Jesus' earthly parents dedicated Him to God also. "Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22).

# **Application**

**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:

If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. (Matthew 18:6)

(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: "'As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD'" (Joshua 24:15). Can anything please God more than entire families serving Him?

# **Application**

**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.

Often, 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; and 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 provide 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 were

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: "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

# **Application**

<b>15</b> Name the for from spiritual di	saster.	J 1	•
•••••			 

You have finished your study of *Marriage and the 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.
- **10c)** "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 these.
  - 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 people.
  - **6** Those who grow up without having received some type of training will have difficulty earning a living for themselves.

#### 14c)

**7** At birth

**15** Love, faithfulness, forgiveness, prayer

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

You have finished this course. We hope that it has been a great help to you! Remember to complete the second Unit Evaluation and return the answer sheet to your instructor.

# CL6260 Marriage and the Home

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#### **Directions**

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.

#### Example

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

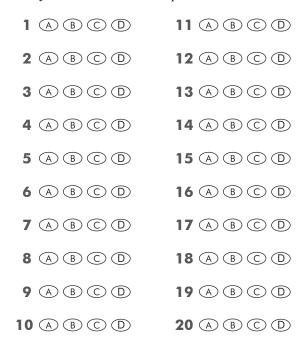
The correct answer is **b)** accept Jesus as Savior, so you would blacken space (B) like this:

1. A • C D

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

#### UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.



This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. For grading, return your Unit One Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area. Continue your study in Unit Two.

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	Date	
	Score	

#### UNIT ONE EVALUATION

- 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
- **a)** that while a married man may desire another man's wife he may not commit adultery.
- **b)** that local customs regarding marriage should be adhered to.
- c) that 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 one 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?
- a) Trusting and forgiving attitudes
- **b)** Education and social prestige
- c) 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
- a) advice of parents or other older, more experienced people.
- **b)** a personal revelation through a dream.
- c) 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
- a) excitement in being together.
- **b)** belonging to each other.
- c) having one's needs met.
- **14** One can have assurance of God's will in choosing a marriage partner when he or she
- a) experiences a feeling of peace.
- **b)** finds someone who has all the right qualities.
- c) agrees to marry any eligible Christian.

- **15** The engagement period before marriage is a time to check on
- a) whether or not one's chosen partner is a Christian.
- **b)** compatibility in sexual intimacy.
- c) willingness to make necessary adjustments.
- **16** Engagement customs will prove to be an obstacle for a Christian couple if the customs
- a) are light-hearted.
- **b)** are dishonoring to God.
- c) require a celebration.
- 17 The actual marriage of the engaged couple should involve
- **a)** the fulfillment of civil requirements as well as a religious ceremony.
- **b)** only a religious ceremony in a church if the couple is Christian.
- c) only a civil ceremony in order to cut down on expenses.
- **18** The importance of the home is its
- a) providing for the birth and development of children.
- **b)** being an influence upon the parents' character development.
- c) reflecting of the values of the local community.
- 19 Necessary adjustments following marriage include
- **a)** receiving no further advice from either set of parents.
- **b)** giving the husband full responsibility for managing the money.
- c) thinking in terms of what is best for both, not one.
- **20** Family worship should begin when the
- a) couple gets married.
- **b)** children can understand it.
- c) first child is born.

#### CL6260 Marriage and the Home

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#### **Directions**

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.

#### Example

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

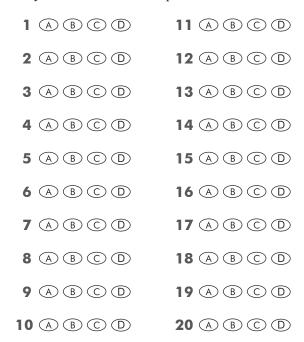
The correct answer is **b)** accept Jesus as Savior, so you would blacken space (B) like this:

1. A • C D

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

#### Unit Two Answer Sheet

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.



This is the end of the requirements for Unit Two. For grading, return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area.

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	Date	
	Score	

#### **UNIT TWO EVALUATION**

- 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) complimenting her on her cooking.
- **b)** feeling her hurt when she hurts.
- c) demanding her obedience to him.
- **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 only.
- **b)** spiritual needs only.
- 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.
- 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)** 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)** increase 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 teenage 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** 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 lifestyle.
- **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.

Please return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor. Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.

#### FINAL WORDS

Dear Student,

We hope this study has made you think about your relationship with God. After studying the lessons and answering all the questions, have you wondered, "Am I really a Christian? Do I know God? Is He real in my life?" We want to give you the opportunity now to have a relationship with God.

We have all done wrong things. We have hurt ourselves and others. The Bible calls that sin and we are all guilty: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from knowing God as a loving Father. But God loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall never perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sins when He died.

Do you want to make sure that Jesus is your Savior? It is really so simple:

- Admit that you are a needy sinner separated from God and ask Him to forgive you.
- Believe in Jesus with all your heart and let Him know that you accept Him as your Savior.

You can talk to God in your own words by saying a prayer like this:

Dear Jesus.

I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe you are the eternal Son of God. Thank you for dying on the Cross for my sins. Come into my life. Make yourself real in my life. Be Lord of my life today. Thank you for saving me! Amen.

If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Jesus is Lord of your life. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Welcome to the family of God. We want to rejoice with you, so please write and tell us what God has done in your life.  Blessings to you!					
Name					
Name					
Do you have a friend who needs to know					
more about Jesus?					
Send us your friend's name and address for answers to the great questions of life.					
Name					
Address					

# WOULD YOU LIKE TO ...

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Marriage and the Home is Course 6 in Unit 2.

