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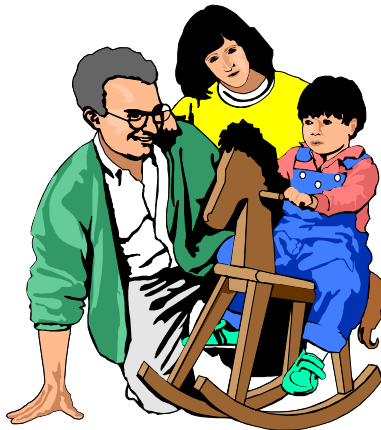
THE FAMILY

God's Design For The Home

Study #6

The Bible teaches that God has two institutions – the *HOME* and the *CHURCH*. Nothing should be more important to a Christian than these two places, for they are ordained of God.

The Home and the Church are *complementary*. The strongest home is one that is built around a church, and the strongest church is one that is made up of families who attend regularly and serve God faithfully. Christ and His church are a focal point for spiritual growth, for



© Christian Mentoring from A to Z

Checklist

- ☐ This Lesson
- ☐ Spiritual Journal
- ☐ Gospel Tracts

If you are continuing with your Timothy after the initial six lessons (A-F):

For Next Session

- ☐ Lesson G
- ☐ Choruses Tape

Lesson Overview

- I. The First Home
- II. The Husband's Duty To His Wife
- III. The Wife's Duty To Her Husband
- IV. The Parents' Duty To Their Children
- V. The Children's Duty To Their Parents
- VI. Family Life – God's Heaven On Earth
- VII. Establishing A family Altar

fellowship, and for family activities. Faithful attendance to the local church by committed believers makes the church an ideal place for building family unity. There is a mutual benefit for both the families and the church.

Informal

Conversation –

Ask about his week.
Ask about answers to the prayer requests you have shared.

Discuss Last Week's Assignments –

1. Ask him to share his Scriptural insights, prayers, and applications from his Spiritual Journal.
2. Share one of your Quiet Times.
3. Exchange highlights of your sermon notes.
4. Ask him about his effort of handing out a gospel tract.

Read page one to your Timothy.

It is little wonder, then, that Satan’s arena of diabolic activity is in our homes and in the churches. This is truly an age when many “homes are on the rocks – instead of on ‘THE ROCK’.”

The Bible is a very practical book and has much to say about the home. God has a definite blueprint for your family, your home. Rather than attempting an exhaustive study, this lesson will identify some godly *principles* for you to follow.

I. THE FIRST HOME

Open your Bible to Genesis 2:15-25 and read this passage carefully.

A. *What did God say was not good for man?*

B. *How was the first woman made?*

C. *In this passage, God says the woman is to be an H_____ M_____ for the man. (This means that the woman completes the man; she is a “helper suitable” to him.)*

D. *In marriage, what is the couple to leave?*

E. *In marriage, what is the couple to become?*

F. *Look up Matthew 19:4-6. What did the Lord Jesus Christ say concerning the permanency of the marriage relationship?*

Read Genesis 2:15-25. Marriage as we know it in our culture finds its roots in these verses of God’s Word. This is where it started.

Summary:
God instituted marriage. The man and the woman are to leave their families and cling to one another. They become one. This is a permanent relationship (“*until death do us part*”). A Christian couple should not entertain thoughts of divorce.

- G.** *Look up Romans 7:1-3. According to God's plan for marriage, the bond of marriage was to be broken by D_____.*
- H.** *Look up Hebrews 13:4a. What two things does God say are honorable?*
1. M_____.
2. The bed U_____ (i.e., marital intimacy).
- I.** *According to Hebrews 13:4, what does God judge?*
- W_____ (fornicators)
and A_____

God is serious about sexual purity!

An unmarried couple may live together or sleep together and be justified in the eyes of many, but God says He will judge such activity. Our world is obsessed with sex; God's people live by a higher standard. The pornography publisher maintains, "Sex is a function of the body, a drive which man shares with animals, like eating, drinking, and sleeping. It's a physical demand that must be satisfied. If you don't satisfy it, you will have all sorts of neuroses and repressive psychoses. Sex is here to stay; let's forget the prudery that makes us hide from it. Throw away those inhibitions, find a girl who's like-minded and let yourself go."

A thoughtful person will see the foolishness of such rhetoric, such as, extramarital pregnancies, forcible rapes, illegitimate births, and venereal diseases of all sorts. Sex is not just a biological function; it is an intimate and emotional oneness that God designed a married couple to have as they raise a godly family.

Emphasize the seriousness with which God takes sexual impurity. God actually warns us to "flee fornication."

Discuss some of the ills of society due to the violation of God's standards of morality.

Ask:

How do you think the world takes our stand on morality?

Who matters most, God or the world?

Have you personally committed to God to live a morally pure life?

1. DON'T LIVE TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE!
2. Follow God's Word on this matter!
(Ephesians 5:3) *"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, **let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;**"*

Discipler:

If your Timothy is a lady you may skip the review of II. THE HUSBAND'S DUTY TO HIS WIFE. Caution her not to use this as ammunition against her husband if he is not measuring up to God's standard.

II. THE HUSBAND'S DUTY TO HIS WIFE

- A. To C _____ unto his wife (Genesis 2:24).
- B. To L _____ his wife (Ephesians 5:25).
- C. A husband's love for his wife is to be the same as:
 1. C _____'s love for the C _____ (Ephesians 5:25).
 2. Men's love for their own B _____ (Ephesians 5:28).
- D. To P _____ for his wife (1 Timothy 5:8).
- E. To give H _____ to his wife (1 Peter 3:7).
- F. To render due B _____ to his wife (1 Corinthians 7:3).
- G. To D _____ not his wife (1 Corinthians 7:5).



Summary:

The husband is to cleave to, love, provide for, and honor his wife. Discuss ways to do this.

Comment:

A husband's primary duty before God is to love his wife with a self-sacrificing love. This is what *agape* love is. There are several Greek words that are translated love in our English Bible. This is because the Greek language is very specific (more so than English). *Eros* is a sensual love (from which we get "erotic"). *Phileo* is a brotherly love (*Philadelphia* = city of brotherly love). *Agape* is a self-sacrificing love, a love which causes you to seek the highest welfare of the one loved.

This is referring to the physical intimacy of marriage.

H. *The husband is to be the H_____ of the wife and the home (Ephesians 5:23.)*

This has nothing to do with being a “dictator,” but it means he is to be in the place of leadership. Both the husband and wife are equal in quality, worth, and in many other ways. Each may have strengths over the other. Headship given to the man is a functional position. It is God’s chain of authority. Every institution has to have leadership.>

Discipler:

If your Timothy is a man you may skip the review of III. THE WIFE’S DUTY TO HER HUSBAND. Caution him not to use this as ammunition against his wife if she is not measuring up to God’s standard.

III. THE WIFE’S DUTY TO HER HUSBAND

A. *To S_____ to her husband in his exercise of leadership in the home (Ephesians 5:22).*

B. *To R_____ her husband (Ephesians 5:33.)*

Never criticize your husband in the presence of others.

C. *To G_____ the household. (1 Timothy 5:14).*

Summary:

The wife is to submit to, reverence, and defraud not her husband. She guides the household. Discuss ways to do this.



Can a woman work outside the home?

The Bible does not teach it is wrong for a woman to get a paying job, especially in a time of need, but her **first** priority is to be a homemaker. When a job causes a wife to neglect her husband, and a mother to give second best to the children -- she ought to quit her job and trust the Lord! God never intended for children to be left in the care of others while their mother

Comment:

A wife’s primary duty before God is to lovingly submit to the headship of her husband, that is, to reverence her husband. This is not an admission of inferiority. Submission is a functional necessity. There needs to be one head in the home. God established the man as this head.

worked outside of the home. Materialism and career “peer pressure” are what usually drives a woman to leave her children for others to raise while she works outside the home. A mother of “latch-key” kids has forsaken her role of greatest influence on this world.

Ask:

What are some things you can do to build a closer relationship with your spouse?

D. *If your husband is not a Christian, follow the teaching of 1 Peter 3:1.*

The word “conversation” in this verse means a “godly manner of life.”

Discipler:

If your Timothy has an unsaved spouse, cover these notes thoroughly and explain how he or she can win an unsaved spouse to Christ.

Do I have to obey my unsaved husband?

Don’t set out to disobey your unsaved husband, even if it means having to miss coming to a church service. Pray hard, and let God deal with him! In the case of a hard-hearted and stubborn husband, you may get to the point of “*having to obey God rather than man.*” To help you evaluate your own motives and attitudes seek the counsel of a godly friend as a safeguard to rejecting your husband’s authority. **Never** push the Bible “down his throat.” Instead, seek to be a “living Gospel” to him by following the Scriptural pattern above. Earnestly pray for your husband and love him. Ask the Lord to open opportunities for you to witness to him or invite him to the church meetings.

E. *To D _____ not her husband (1 Corinthians 7:4,5).*

Note: The physical union of marriage is intended for the intimate pleasure of both husband and wife.

Never use this part of your marriage as a “bargaining chip” with your husband. Husbands and

wives must work together in this area to achieve both understanding and harmony.

IV. THE PARENTS' DUTY TO THEIR CHILDREN

A. *Children are the Lord's*
H_____
(Psalm 127:3).

B. *Parents (not school, not*
baby-sitters, not
television) are
responsible to
T_____ up their
children (Proverbs 22:6).

C. *Fathers are responsible to bring their children up*
in the N_____ and
A_____ of the Lord
(Ephesians 6:4b).

The word "nurture" means discipline.

1. Children require discipline and should be taught this in the home. It will take disciplined character on the part of the parents to accomplish this.
 - a. Children should be taught to OBEY without question; and when necessary, without waiting for an explanation.
 - b. Obedience must be instant and without argument.
 - c. For character building, parents should allow no exceptions to this rule.



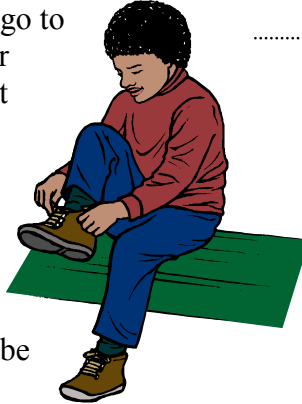
Discipler:

This section on parenting will often raise many questions. If you don't know the answer to a question don't give one. Get an answer and call your Timothy at a later time. A delayed answer is better than a wrong answer.

Summary:

Your children are a gift from God. It is YOUR responsibility to train them in discipline, responsibility, obedience, respect for others, and most of all to love the Lord their God.

2. Children should be taught to work. In their first year they can be taught to pick up clothes and toys.
3. Children should be taught regular habits for happiness and usefulness.
 - a. They should go to bed at regular times without complaint.
 - b. They should have good habits of personal hygiene.
 - c. They should be trained to be orderly and neat. Parents have to set the example!
 - d. Their television watching should be very carefully controlled and limited. Children should never be permitted to watch television apart from parental supervision!
 - e. They should be taught responsibility for personal actions.
 - f. They should be disciplined in love when disobedient or rebellious.
4. Children need to be taught the art of living peaceably with others at home.
 - a. No fighting should be allowed.
 - b. They should respect the possessions of other family members (including their parents) and not take what is not their own.



Give your Timothy this information—

1. Our church has a parenting course each Fall.
2. Throughout the year there is much help given from the pulpit regarding husband/wife and parent/child relationships.
3. The pastoral staff is available for counseling if the discipler is unable to handle a situation.
4. There are good books in our bookstore on marriage and child-rearing.
5. It is a great benefit to have your family in all the church services because they will develop friendships with other families that are being raised Biblically.
6. Encourage your Timothy and his/her spouse to attend the next annual Sweetheart Retreat and Spring couples planning weekend.

- c. They should be taught to share their property.
 - d. They should be taught to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.
 - e. They should be taught respect for others in general (parents, elders, those in authority, peers, etc.).
5. Children should be taught the right use of money.
- a. When old enough, they should earn some money of their own (but not for doing things they ought to be doing anyway, such as making their beds or cleaning up their rooms).
 - b. They should be taught to tithe and give offerings to the Lord.
 - c. They should be taught how to spend money wisely.
 - d. They should be taught to save.
6. Children need, and should have, time with their parents.
- a. They should have “special” times with each parent and special times with the entire family together.
 - b. Parents should lead their children in such a way that in time they can win that one to Christ.



All of the above spell *TIME AND WORK*.
That's what it takes! Most modern-day
parents are too lazy (selfish) to give the time

and put in the consistent effort to raise godly children — they want instant results, or to let others do it for them.

Determine here and now that you will follow God's pattern, and dedicate yourself to its consistent application while you have children in the home!

D. *See your children as they really are in God's sight.*

Look up *Proverbs 22:15a* and *Psalms 58:3*: we are all born with a “sin nature.”

E. *Read God's provision for correction of children:*

1. The Father's I _____
(*Proverbs 13:1*).
2. The R ____ (*Proverbs 22:15b*).

F. *Much of today's humanistic philosophy says it is wrong to spank children, but God says it is necessary and right -- provided . . .*

1. The rod is applied to the right place. **Never** strike your child across the face, chest, back, etc. Apply the “board of education” to the “seat of learning.”
2. The rod is applied in love (*Proverbs 13:24b*). Never spank your children in anger or to vent your frustrations. Send your child to his room and wait for a few minutes to think things through. Then communicate with him why he is going to be disciplined. After the spanking reassure him of your love.
3. The rod is applied early in life (“...while there is hope...” -- *Proverbs 19:18*).
4. The rod is applied effectively (*Proverbs 19:18*). Children will cry with a proper

spanking. They may also do their best to make you feel like an ogre -- don't spare it! Children need punishment for bad behavior. When punishment is applied, freedom from guilt is possible.

5. The rod is applied consistently. Don't spank for wrongs the child didn't know about. Don't spank for last week's wrongs. Spank as close to the time of misbehavior as possible to insure maximum learning and effectiveness. **DON'T EVER NOT SPANK WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD!**
6. There is a time of loving and prayer soon after the rod has been applied. Never apologize for spanking, rather, assure the child of your love (Proverbs 13:24a).

V. THE CHILDREN'S DUTY TO THEIR PARENTS

- A. *H_____ thy father and thy mother (Exodus 20:12).*
- B. *Listen to your parents' I_____ - _____ (Proverbs 13:1).*
- C. *O_____ your parents (Ephesians 6:1).*

Summary:

Children are to honor, respect, and obey their parents. They should obey:
immediately (1st time told)
completely
with the right attitude
Anything short of this is not Biblical obedience.

VI. FAMILY LIFE -- GOD'S HEAVEN ON EARTH

"In the house of the righteous is much treasure." — Proverbs 15:6

- A.** *Look up Ephesians 4:31-32. List the six things that need to be put out of your family and home:*
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
- B.** *From the same verses list the three things you need to have there:*
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- C.** *Look up Deuteronomy 6:5-7. What is it that should be a constant part of your home?*
- _____
- D.** *Look up Joshua 24:15f. What was Joshua's motto for his home?*
- _____

VII. ESTABLISHING A FAMILY ALTAR

One of the greatest blessings you can enjoy in your home is to have what is termed a "family altar."

A family altar is a definite time, place, and event in the life of your home where the whole family meets around the Word of God — to read, to pray, to sing, to talk.

In our fast-moving society, it will be one of the most difficult things for you to do — but one of the best.

A. The responsibility for the family altar

This responsibility rests upon the F_____.
(See: *Ephesians 6:4; 1 Corinthians 14:35*)

Review section VII.
ESTABLISHING A
FAMILY ALTAR.

Share what you have
done as a family for a
Family Altar time.

B. *How to establish your family altar*

1. Decide upon the most suitable time for your home. If appropriate, call a family conference to make this decision.
2. Make a definite commitment to the Lord to establish your family altar. Plan to stick to it.
3. Work out a plan of Bible reading and devotional material. This will vary depending upon the age of any children. Talk to your pastors and church leaders if help is needed in selecting some good material.
4. Do it!! Right away! Then be ready to resist the Devil as he throws his fiery darts of opposition.

C. *Suggestions for a good family altar*

1. Always read a portion of Scripture. The book of Proverbs is excellent for the family.
2. Have a hymn or chorus “of the month.” Learn it as a family.
3. Use “prayer cards” for a family prayer time. Make these up your self; and include your pastors, teachers, missionaries, church members, relatives, and the unsaved.
4. Be brief. It is far better to be brief and consistent than drawn out and haphazard.
5. Involve the entire family.
6. Use some variety. Reading through a good Christian biography is one helpful adjunct.
7. Keep it informal, Biblical, and open for suggestion and improvement.
8. For younger children, acting out a Bible story is a fun and effective learning exercise.

Warning: Be careful that the atmosphere of your home is not different at family altar time. That is hypocrisy and will harm your children greatly.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENTS

- ☐ Read your G Lesson (God) and answer all the questions.
- ☐ Continue reading through the New Testament and doing your daily Quiet Time by writing your own Scriptural insight, application, and prayer.
- ☐ Continue taking sermon notes.
- ☐ Give out some gospel tracts to someone.
- ☐ Where would you like to meet for next week's session?
- ☐ Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, G Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

HELP!

Christian homes and marriages are NOT exempt from pressures and troubles. There may be times when serious problems arise. Always feel that you can confidently (and confidentially) speak to your pastors about such matters. They know the Bible has the answers, and are more than willing to counsel with you. But, be willing to accept Bible answers and principles over worldly "solutions!"

Discipler Report Back

F

I met with _____ on
_____/_____/_____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You

**This is a
sample of
the
“Discipler
Report
Back” page
that you
removed
from the
back of your
Timothy’s
lesson.**

**Return that
sheet to the
Hospitality
Booth in the
church foyer.**