

Life Now Bible study series

Marriage and Family

The Christian family is one of the greatest statements to the world that God is in our midst. The love and commitment demonstrated by a husband and wife show the power of God mightily at work.

Obedient and joy-filled children demonstrate that God’s ways of raising children are not outdated, but perfectly address the challenges of the 21st century family.

“A good marriage is the union of two forgivers.” - Ruth Bell Graham

Part 1 - Marriage

What kind of person should you look for in a spouse?

- a) 2 Corinthians 6:14 _____
- b) Proverbs 31:30 _____
- c) Proverbs 20:6 _____

What are some of the purposes for marriage?

- a) Genesis 1:28 _____
- b) Genesis 2:18 _____
- c) Malachi 2:15 _____
- d) 1 Corinthians 7:9 _____
- e) Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 _____

“If love is a dream, then marriage is the alarm clock.” - John Hagee

Roles and Responsibilities:

How does God view men and women in His sight? Galatians 3:28-29

What do the following verses tell us about the role of a husband?

- a) Ephesians 5:23-33 _____
- b) Colossians 3:19 _____
- c) 1 Peter 3:7 _____
- d) 1 Timothy 5:8 _____

“The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.”
- Theodore Hesburgh

What do the following verses tell us about the role of a wife?

- a) Genesis 2:18 _____
- b) Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6

- c) Ephesians 5:33 _____
- d) Titus 2:3-5 _____

If husbands and wives treated each other as commanded in the above verses, how do you think that would impact most marriages? _____

If one spouse does not fulfill his or her God given roles in marriage, what impact do you think that would have? _____

Thought Questions:

What are some practical ways of living out this type of love in a marriage relationship?

With respect to the way we treat one another, is marriage exceedingly different from any other Christian relationship? _____

Memorize and think about:

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

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.

Love never fails.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Part 2 - Parenting

The Blessings of Parenting:

What are three ways God expressed His blessing in Deuteronomy 7:13? _____

How does God view the birth of children? Psalms 127:3-5 _____

What should be the typical outcome of good parenting? Proverbs 22:6 _____

Although parenting can be extremely trying at times, what should be the end result of our efforts? 3 John 1:4 _____

Love:

“Affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives.”

- C.S. Lewis

From the following verses, what is one of the greatest callings on a Christian parent’s life? Mark 12:31; John 13:34 _____

What are three ways a father deals with his children? 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 _____

How is love expressed? 1 John 3:16 _____

What are the three things God the Father communicated about His Son in Matthew 3:17 and Matthew 17:5? _____

How can parents communicate these to their children? _____

Training:

What should parents' love for their children result in? Proverbs 13:24 _____

What is one way that God's love is expressed toward us? Revelation 3:19 _____

What did David fail to do with his son? 1 Kings 1:6 _____

"You must not think it a strange and unusual thing, that little hearts can be so full of sin."
- J.C. Ryle

What are the benefits of discipline?

- a) Proverbs 19:18 _____
- b) Proverbs 29:17 _____
- c) Hebrews 12:7-11 _____

How deliberate and active should we be at teaching our children the things of God? Deuteronomy 6:6-9 _____

In what should we train our children? Ephesians 6:4 _____

In regards to the Bible: *"They cannot be acquainted with that blessed book too soon, or too well."*
- J.C. Ryle

How important is it for parents to live out the things they teach? Luke 6:40 _____

Whose influence could potentially shipwreck a child's character? 1 Corinthians 15:33 ____

What character traits would you like to see your children have by the time they leave the home? _____

Thought Questions:

How will the things you've been learning in this "Life Now Bible Study" affect what you want to pass on to your kids? _____

How will you help develop these character traits in your children? _____

"Let us see your miracles again; let our children see your glory at work. And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!"
- Psalms 90:16-17

Memorize and think about:

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

"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."
- Proverbs 22:15

"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death."
- Proverbs 23:13-14

For further information on parenting:

Premeditated Parenting by Steve Nelson. Steve is a Great Commission pastor and together with his wife Kathleen are doing a good job with their family. Their book is aimed at parents who have children 12 years of age and younger. It's a good book, filled with practical wisdom. www.premeditatedparenting.net

Rick Whitney, also a Great Commission pastor, has a website geared for fathers. Over 100 articles aimed at encouraging the heart and spirit of a Christian dad. www.gcnwdads.com

A few thoughts on divorce:

Although divorce is rampant in our society, it is nothing new to God. In fact, the Bible gives several reasons to stay true to marriage even when it is difficult.

1. Which of the following best represents the marriage relationship according to Malachi 2:14 and Deuteronomy 23:21-23?
 - a. A casual agreement just between two people?
 - b. A solemn vow made before God?
 - c. An expression of two people's love for each other?

2. If divorce was simply the mutual agreement to break a promise made between two people - that would be one thing. However, the Bible says that the marriage union is not just of human origin.

Who created the bond between a husband and wife? Malachi 2:15a; Matthew 19:6

3. Whose well-being does God think will be affected by divorce? Malachi 2:15b

4. There is one occasion where divorce is permissible. Read Mathew 19:1-9. What is the one cause that our Lord speaks about here, that would allow divorce? _____

5. According to Malachi 2:16, what does God think of divorce? _____

From the verse, why do you think this is the case? _____
