

STUDY # 6

F Family (The Christian Home)

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

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 **sacred**.

Contrary to what many think, the Home and the Church are **COMPLEMENTARY**. The greatest home is one built around a church – and the greatest church is one made up of families who attend faithfully and serve the Lord.

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**,” and when numerous so-called “churches” are departing from the Word of God.

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. Space will not permit an exhaustive study, so this lesson will be concerned with establishing some godly principles for you to follow.

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.*)

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

E. In marriage, what do the couple **become**? _____

- F. Look up: *Matthew 19:4-6*. What did the Lord Jesus Christ say concerning the permanency of the marriage relationship? _____
- G. Look up: *Romans 7:1-3*. According to God's plan for marriage, the bond of marriage was to be broken by _____.
- H. Look up: *Hebrews 13:4a*. What two things does God say are honorable?
1. M _____ .
 2. The bed U _____ (i.e., pre-marital chastity).

THE HUSBAND'S DUTY TO HIS WIFE.

- A. *Genesis 2:24* . To _____ unto his wife.
- B. *Ephesians 5:25* . To _____ his wife.
- C. A husband's love for his wife is to be the same as:
1. _____ 's for the _____ . *Ephesians 5:25*
 2. For their own _____ . *Ephesians 5:28*
- D. To P _____ for his wife. *I Timothy 5:8*
- E. *I Peter 3:7*. To give H _____ to his wife.
- F. *I Corinthians 7:3*. To render due B _____ to his wife. (Do not use her as an object of personal pleasure.)
- G. *I Corinthians 7:5*. To D _____ not his wife. (This is referring to the physical intimacy of marriage.)
- H. *Ephesians 5:23*. The husband is to be the _____ of the wife, and the home.
(This has nothing to do with being a "dictator," but means he is to be in the place of leadership.)

THE WIFE'S DUTY TO HER HUSBAND.

- A. *Ephesians 5:22*. To _____ to her husband in his exercise of leadership in the home.

B. *Ephesians 5:33*. To _ _ _ _ _ her husband. (Never criticize your husband in the presence of others.)

C. *I Timothy 5:14*. To G _ _ _ _ the household.

Note: 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 home-maker. 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 worked.

D. If your husband is not a Christian, follow the teaching of *I Peter 3:1*. The word “conversation” means a “godly manner of life.”

Note: Never set out to disobey your unsaved husband, even if it means having to miss coming to a church meeting. Pray hard, and let God deal with him! **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. *I Corinthians 7:4,5*. To D _ _ _ _ _ not her husband.

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. Husband and wife must work together in this area to achieve both understanding **and** harmony.

PARENTS' DUTY TO THEIR CHILDREN.

A. *Psalms 127:3*. Children are the Lord's H _ _ _ _ _ .

B. *Proverbs 22:6*. Parents (not school, not TV) are responsible to _ _ _ _ _ up their children.

Ephesians 6:4b. Fathers are responsible to bring their children up in the _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ of the Lord. (The word “nurture” means “discipline.”)

● **Children require discipline and should be taught obedience in the home. This will take real character on the part of the parents.**

1. Children should be taught to **OBEY** without question; and when necessary, without waiting for an explanation.

2. Obedience must be instant and without argument.
 3. For character building, parents should allow no exceptions to this rule.
- **Children should be taught to work. In their first year they can be taught to pick up clothes and toys.**
 - **Children should be taught regular habits for happiness and usefulness.**
 1. They should go to bed at regular times without complaint.
 2. They should have good habits of personal hygiene.
 3. They should be trained to be orderly and neat. Parents have to set the example!!
 4. Their television watching should be very carefully controlled and limited. Children should **never** be permitted to watch television apart from parental presence!
 - **Children need to be taught the art of living peaceably with others at home.**
 1. No fighting should be allowed.
 2. They should respect the possessions of other family members (including their parents) and not take what is not their own.
 3. They should be taught to share their property.
 4. They should be taught to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.
 - **Children should be taught the right use of money.**
 1. 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).
 2. They should be taught to tithe and give to the Lord.
 3. They should be taught how to spend wisely.
 4. They should be taught to save.
 - **Children need, and should have, time with their parents.**
 1. They should have “special” times with each parent, and special times with the entire family together.
 2. 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.

C. 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."

D. God's provision for correction of children:

1. *Proverbs 13:1*. Father's _ _ _ _ _ .

2. *Proverbs 22:15b*. The _ _ _ .

Much of today's humanistic philosophy says it is wrong to spank children, but the Bible says it is necessary and right — **provided** . . .

- a. 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!"
- b. The rod is applied in love. *Proverbs 13:24b*. Never spank your children in anger or to take out your frustrations. Send your disobedient child to his or her room and wait for a few minutes to think things through.
- c. The rod is applied early in life ("...while there is yet hope..." — *Proverbs 19:18*).
- d. The rod is applied effectively. *Proverbs 19:18*. Children will cry with a proper spanking. They will also do their best to make you feel like an ogre — don't spare it!
- e. The rod is applied consistently. Don't spank for wrongs the child didn't know about. Don't spank for last week's wrongs. **DON'T EVER NOT SPANK WHEN YOU SAID YOU WOULD!**
- f. There is a time of loving and prayer soon after the rod has been applied. **Never** apologize for spanking, but assure the child of your love. *Proverbs 13:24a*

CHILDREN'S DUTIES TO THEIR PARENTS.

A. *Exodus 20:12* . H _ _ _ _ _ thy father and thy mother.

B. *Proverbs 13:1*. Listen to your parents' I _ _ _ _ _ .

C. *Ephesians 6:1* . O _ _ _ your parents.

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. _____ |

... and the **three** things you need to have there:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Look up: *Deuteronomy 6:5-7*. What is it that should be a constant part of your home?

C. Look up: *Joshua 24:15f*. What was Joshua’s motto for his home?

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 _____.

(See: *Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21, I Peter 3:7, I Corinthians 14:35*)

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 the establishment of 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 pastor 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 yourself; and include your pastor, 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.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE

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 pastor about such matters. He believes the Bible has the answer, and is more than willing to counsel with you. But, be willing to accept Bible answers and principles over worldly "solutions"!

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *Proverbs* Chapters 10 through 15.

MEMORIZATION:

Try to memorize: *Joshua 24:15*