

OUR HOME



A Bible Study on the Family

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CHAPTER 1



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INTRODUCTION:

If you are using this Bible study as a preparation for marriage you are making an excellent choice. It becomes so much harder, with small children to find the time for Bible study and discussion. It will pay dividends to make sure you agree on the Biblical basis of the home, before you have to meet the challenges.

If you are doing this Bible study, already being married, you will be well acquainted with the challenges of maintaining an intimate relationship with your spouse, and with the challenge of bringing up children, who will themselves want a home that honours the Lord. You are probably all too glad to get some real help for the daily frustrations.

My prayer is that your marriage and family will be the richer for having studied and agreed to live by God's Word.

In this present chapter we will seek to understand why it is so crucial for each partner to be walking with the Lord.

In the next chapter we will look at the controversial subject of marital roles, and in subsequent chapters we will look at issues like priorities, communication, finances, and others.

We'll be seeking for you to develop a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with each other, and with your children. So now you're started, keep at it, it will be worth it!

QUESTION 1. *(Philippians 2:3-4) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. {4} Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.* Verse 3 above expects men and women to behave in a certain way, in and of themselves, and seeks to correct that behaviour. In what way is it assuming men and women will behave?

What is/are the antidote/s to this natural behaviour according to verses 3 & 4?

Is this advice easy to follow?

QUESTION 2: In the previous question you saw that both men and women are naturally selfish. But any two selfish people will eventually clash. To prevent that we should be selfless, but that is easier said than done. Selflessness does not come naturally to us at all. How does the Bible describe natural men? see Romans 3:10-12, 23.

However there is another type of man or woman the Bible calls 'spiritual'. Compare the natural man and spiritual man (or woman)....

VERSE	NATURAL MAN	SPIRITUAL MAN
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1 Corinthians 2:14-15		
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1 Corinthians 15:45-49		
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James 3:14-18		
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Jude 17-21		
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QUESTION 3. In question 1 we saw we are to be selfless rather than selfish for a good marriage. In question 2 we saw selflessness was a characteristic of the spiritual man and selfishness a characteristic of the natural man. An ideal marriage will have partners who will be acting spiritually and not naturally. We now look at how to be spiritual. This is basic for a good marriage.

A. Admit. What does each person need to admit according to Romans 3:23?

B. Believe. What does each person have to believe according to Romans 10:9?

C. Commit. What does each person have to commit according to Romans 12:1-2?

D. Do. Before you're married you have to say 'I do'. Before you become a spiritual man you have to say 'I do'; I do, admit my sin, believe in Christ, and commit my life according to the above verses. If either partner is unsure they want to do this, or are not sure they have done it, it would be worthwhile taking a break from this Bible study and doing the 'Christianity Explained' Bible study course.



QUESTION 4: Having done question 3 and perhaps a ‘Christianity Explained’ Bible study I am glad that you can honestly say you are a Christian. That foundation is basic for real marriage. But even being a Christian does not guarantee that we are spiritual. We now look at factors involved in being truly spiritual. Review quickly the differences between the natural man and spiritual man in question 2. That describes what the spiritual man is like but how do we get there? **FIRST** remember what God has done for you and the reason He has done it. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and summarise.

What good works does God want you to do in your marriage?

QUESTION 5. How do we become spiritual? **SECOND** we need that personal relationship with Christ. Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What insights does that passage give you in regard your Christian life and relationship with Christ?

How would you expect your partner to be living if they were in a close relationship to Christ?

QUESTION 6. How do we become spiritual? **THIRD** we need to walk with Christ. Read Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32. List characteristics of a Christian’s walk. Are there any of these that needs special attention in your life? Would walking in Christ make a difference to your forthcoming/present marriage?

QUESTION 7: Read 1 John 2:15-16 and Matthew 6:24. Which do you love? What are the three phrases John uses to describe the elements of the world? Can you explain these in your own words? Have you been enticed by some aspect of the world? What is it necessary for you to do?

QUESTION 8. Have you ever had an argument with your partner? Where do such fights come from according to James 4:1-4? Do you see the relationship between worldliness and marriage relationship? What you do in private does affect relationships!





CHAPTER 2



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INTRODUCTION:

In this chapter we will turn to marriage specifically, but it must be emphasised, for the best marriage, each partner must have been made selfless by the Spirit of God (that is they are not only saved but walking with Christ). In particular we will be examining the roles of husband and wife. The foundations for marriage were laid in the first chapters of Genesis. We will also examine what the New Testament has to say on marital roles.

QUESTION 1. Read Genesis 2:18. How is Adam's companion described in this verse? (use your own words; can you find more information in a study Bible or a commentary?)

'helper'

'comparable'

Does this have any implication for the husband/wife relationship?

(By the way, what is God's comment on singleness in this verse?)

Now read Genesis 2:21-23. Verse 18 described God's intention. These verses describe His action. Is there further significance here for the husband wife relationship?

QUESTION 2. Is there any significance for the marriage relationship in that the husband was created first? See 1 Timothy 2:12-14.

What would our present culture say in response to such teaching?

Was Paul's instruction in Timothy an instruction just for the Greek culture of his day, or does it apply to us too. Why?

QUESTION 3: Read Genesis 2:24-25. Now we will look carefully at these two verses phrase by phrase. Clearly these two verses are talking of marriage.

How many people are involved in the marriage relationship?

What does this imply about polygamy/polygyny?

What are the sexes of the two parties?

What does this imply about homosexual 'marriages'?

QUESTION 4: What do you understand by the word 'leave' (Genesis 2:24)? What is being left by the man (and by implication the wife)? If you are not sure perhaps these questions will help you think it through...

What are children (kids) obliged to do in regard to parents? See Ephesians 6:1.

What is the obligation throughout life? See Matthew 15:3-8.

So what is left when the man and woman leave their respective homes?

They leave the obligation to _____ but not the obligation to _____ their parents.

Do you have parents/in-laws who want to maintain control/who you suspect will want to maintain control?

What does the Bible say?

So how could this be handled?

What are some possible scenarios if the situation is not handled?

QUESTION 5: What do you understand by the word 'joined'? Can you think of some examples of objects that have been joined? For some interest see Job 41:1-2, 15-17.

This passage describes a huge animal, maybe a pleiosaurus, or a giant crocodile. What does it say about its scales?

If a man and woman are joined and then you try and pull them apart, what will happen?

What determination of your heart do you need to make an absolute for your marriage?

QUESTION 6: The result of ‘joining’ the man and woman is that they become ‘one flesh’. What do you think ‘one flesh’ means?
In what sense are the man and woman ‘one flesh’?

QUESTION 7: Genesis 2:25 certainly says something about the sexuality of Adam and Eve. What does it say about their sexuality?

You may also want to read Genesis 1:27-28. What was God’s command in those verses? What was required to fulfill the command? So whose idea was the sexual relationship?

But Genesis 2:25 says something about intimacy in general. Are you able to explain? What does sin and guilt have to do with the closeness of the marriage relationship? What happened to their relationship after they disobeyed God? See Genesis 3:12

QUESTION 8: Now see if you can write out a definition of marriage. As well as considering the above consider;
What’s the difference between marriage and living together?/ Is a marriage by a celebrant still a marriage? (Are Moslem/Hindu etc marriages still marriages?)/ Was divorce part of God’s plan presented to Adam/Eve?/ What has the church got to do with marriage? Who can be married? When can a marriage be in a church? Is it possible to leave home and be joined to a wife without anyone knowing?

QUESTION 9: Now we turn to Ephesians 5 which further explains marital roles. But before we do that it must be emphasised that God, who created man and woman, created them equal, but different, with different roles. Galations 3:28 is typical of the Bible’s teaching on this. What does it say?

As far as Ephesians 5 is concerned fill out the following table. If you are male fill out only the ‘husband’ column. If you are female fill out only the ‘wife’ column.

Verse	Husband	Wife
21	_____	_____
22(instruction)	_____	_____
23(reason)	_____	_____
24(instruction & reason)	_____	_____
25(instruction & reason)	_____	_____
28(instruction)	_____	_____
28-29(reason)	_____	_____
33(instruction)	_____	_____

Now summarise the husbands role:

What is necessary to sacrificially love someone?

Also, summarise the wife’s role:

What is necessary to submit to another person?

Is the husband excused from fulfilling his role if his wife does not fulfill hers?

Is the wife excused from fulfilling her role if the husband does not fulfill his?

Do you object to the marital roles as set out by Ephesians? Why?

Why might God know better what will work in marriage than mere men and women?

Is there any evidence in our present society that the Bible teaching on marriage does work?

Think again. Is the Father equal to the Son? Is there a difference in their roles? So with the husband and wife there is equality but also different roles. See 1 Corinthians 11:3. Does this verse help your understanding of the difference between roles and equality?

QUESTION 10: 1 Peter 3:1-6 speaks to wives. What command, that we have already looked at, is repeated in this section ? (See verses 1, 5-6)

What special benefit might obedience to this command have if your husband was not saved? (See verse 1)

What implication does this verse have for witness within families in general?

Of course it is important how a wife looks for her husband, but what is even more important than this according to verses 3-4?

Read verse 2 in the NIV and NASB, then fill in the blanks in the following sentence.

(1 Peter 3:2) when they see the **purity** and reverence of your lives. [NIV]

(1 Peter 3:2) as they observe your chaste and **respectful** behavior. [NASB]

A godly wife will be _____ and _____ in her behavior (verse 2), and _____ and _____ in her spirit (verse 4).

Explain how that behavior and attitude might affect her relationship with her husband.

QUESTION 11: How is the equality of wife and husband brought out again in verse 7?

What promise is given to husbands if they follow the advice of verse 7?

What advice is given?

Is it possible for a man to understand his wife? How might a husband go about understanding his wife? Why is understanding his wife basic to loving her?

What would be some examples of a husband honouring his wife?

What does the phrase ‘giving honor to the wife, **as to the weaker vessel,**’ mean? Is this demeaning to the wife in any way?



CHAPTER 3



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INTRODUCTION: In this chapter we bring together the spiritual foundation discussed in chapter 1 and the marital roles discussed in chapter 2. The emphasis of this chapter will be marital priorities.

QUESTION 1: Read Hebrews 13:4. What should your attitude be to your marriage? What is the single greatest danger to the success of your marriage? What can you do to maintain an exciting relationship with your spouse? From this verse how would you rank this priority in your marriage?

QUESTION 2: Psalm 127 emphasises two further priorities for the family. Verses 1-2 discuss the first priority and verses 3-5, the second. What are the two priorities?

Now, can you rank these priorities with the priority of question 1 (number them 1 to 3). Give reasons for your ranking.

Also discuss why it is impossible to build a house without putting God first. Is your marriage in any danger, then? What things would change in your home/relationship if you put God first?

QUESTION 2(cont.): What observation is made at the end of verse two for those who give God His rightful place?

The world says ‘we can make it on our own’, is this correct?

What promise is given to the man who shoots children straight (verse 5)? Is the world right then in considering children a hassle?

How can parents ensure that they are aiming their children on target?

This is off the topic of priority but what would be a ‘full quiver’ of children?

QUESTION 3: Husbands, list some benefits (after reading Psalm 128) of getting priorities right in the home.





CHAPTER 4



INTRODUCTION: This chapter will consider marital issues like divorce, singleness, sexuality, and the like.

QUESTION 1: Let's start with Christ's teaching on marriage. Read Matthew 19:1-12. There are other records of Jesus teaching on marriage in the gospels but the others are summaries of this passage. The discussion in these verses is between Christ and which group? (verse 3)

What is the question they have for Christ? (verse 3)

See Deuteronomy 24:1-4 to see where their question comes from. Now let's see if we can follow the pharisee's thinking. What does Moses say this man's reason is for divorcing his wife?

But the meaning of 'uncleanness' was nearly as obscure to them as it is to us. The BSB (Believer's Study Bible) comments: 'The precise meaning of "uncleanness" (the same word used in Deuteronomy 23:14, lit. "nakedness") is no longer clear. It may refer to "indecency" or "improper behavior." It could not include adultery, which was punishable by death.' If 'uncleanness' means literally 'nakedness' what kind of 'indecency' or 'improper behaviour' is it most likely referring to?

So under the law was divorce possible?

Was this by command or by permission?

Is divorce being advocated?

Would writing out the divorce make it harder or easier to get?

Is remarriage permitted (verse 2)?

Is remarriage advocated or commanded (verse 2)?

Would verse 4 make a man more or less likely to divorce his wife?

Do you think the pharisees should have known what Moses was saying?

What might have clouded their thinking?

Now let's go back to Matthew: does Jesus answer their question by explaining the Deuteronomy passage? (verses 4-6)

What is Jesus teaching about marriage in verses 4-6?

Even after Christ's explanation, what did the Pharisees still misunderstand about the Deuteronomy passage (verse 7)?

What word did Christ use in verse 8 to correct this misunderstanding?

Why is it that there is a hardness of heart involved in divorce (verse 8)?

"from the beginning it was not so"- What did God intend for marriage from the beginning?

QUESTION 1: (cont.)

Divorce involves hardness of heart. Therefore, (choose one)

- a. divorce is not permitted
- b. divorce is not advocated

Why does divorce/remarriage normally amount to adultery? (verse 9)

What exception does Christ make to this pronouncement? Why do you think Christ made that an exception?

So is Christ permitting divorce here in a particular situation? (verse 9; see if you can find the meaning of 'sexual immorality') If so what is the situation, and is it different to what Moses taught?

The disciples surprise in verse 10 indicates that Christ's opinion here was not the prevailing opinion of their day. What was their conclusion?

Does Christ agree with their conclusion? (verses 11-12)

Now lets summarise:

Is divorce permitted?

Is divorce advocated?

Is remarriage permitted?

Is remarriage advocated?

What was commanded in regard to marriage in the beginning?

Is divorce/remarriage the best course?

QUESTION 2: In the letter called 1 Corinthians Paul is answering questions the Corinthians asked. Whilst we don't have their questions we can make pretty fair guesses. In chapter 7 Paul is answering questions about sexuality.

Read verse 1. What do you think was their first question? In particular what does 'touch' refer to?

What is the only legitimate channel for sexuality (verse 2)?

Is sexuality OK, or is it better for Christians (even married Christians) to abstain from intercourse? (verse 3)

Why should Christian couples have active sexual lives (verses 4-5)?

However whilst there is wisdom in marriage for most, is it a command for Christians? (verse 6)

QUESTION 2: (cont.) What does Paul teach in regard to singleness in verse 7? Does it mesh with what Christ taught (see question 1)?

What does Paul see as the danger of singleness? (verse 9)

What does Paul see as the disadvantages of marriage? (verses 28-35)

So in the end does Paul advocate singleness or marriage for any individual Christian? (see verses 17, 27)

What does Paul personally think is the better of the two choices viz singleness or marriage? see verses 7, 38.

Is Paul's teaching on divorce and remarriage (verses 10-11) consistent with Christ (see question 1)?

In verses 12-16 Paul takes up the situation of mixed marriages. Presumably this is because one partner has become a believer. Does the Christian have the right to leave?

If the unsaved partner leaves, what is the position of the Christian?

How does Paul summarise marriage and remarriage in verses 39-40?

QUESTION 3: What does Proverbs list as the dangers of immorality? See Proverbs 5:1-14, 6:20-7:27.

QUESTION 3: (cont.) What does Proverbs see as the solution to immorality? See Proverbs 5:15-23. Is this consistent with Paul's teaching? (see question 2)

Practically what does this require for your marriage?

QUESTION 4: The Song of Songs deals with the romantic and physical aspects of the marriage relationship. What aspects of the marital relationship are being emphasised in the following verses?

Verse(s)	#	aspect emphasised
1:3,9		1. the ache and joy of romantic love
1:15-16		2. friendship in marriage
1:2, 2:6, 7:8		3. Physical enjoyment in marriage
3:1,4		4. respect of each other
2:10		5. encouragement of each other
1:7		6. The intimacy of the relationship
2:16, 8:6		7. the value of bringing virginity to the marriage
2:15		8. the security of marriage
4:12-5:1		9. the need to work at things that could spoil the marriage
5:1*		10. god's approval of intimacy

*(S of S 5:1) [husband speaking]..I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. [God speaking]..Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers. {NIV}



CHAPTER 5



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INTRODUCTION: This chapter will deal with communication. Communication is crucial to a vital/vibrant marriage. We will look at both good and bad communication.

QUESTION 1: Read Proverbs 18:13. What aspect of communication is it talking about? What is the instruction? How can this be carried out in practice?

What about James 1:19? is there any similar principle stated in that verse? Why do you think James phrased his words like that? When is listening going to be hardest?

QUESTION 2: Now let's look at the second key phrase in James 1:19. What is it? From question 1 we learnt the biggest part of communication is active listening. Explain this second communication principle: what is involved?

Perhaps the following verses will help. Make a note about communication next to each one..

Proverbs 15:23

Proverbs 15:28

Proverbs 21:23

Proverbs 29:20

QUESTION 3: OK, so we've learnt to listen, and then speak with caution. Now some further principles in regard to our speech. What is Ephesians 4:15, 25 teaching? Is stretching the truth the same as lying?

When might husbands and wives be tempted to lie to each other?

What does the concept of transparency have to do with this?

QUESTION 4: What poor form of communication is Proverbs 21:19 & 29:22 talking about. But uncontrolled anger is not just poor communication; what label do these verses give such anger?

What advice is given to husbands and wives in these verses:
Proverbs 14:29

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 17:14

Proverbs 20:3

Proverbs 25:15

Proverbs 29:11

QUESTION 5: Read Ephesians 4:31. This verse summarises what we should have learnt from question 4. In putting away these sinful forms of communication we are to put on righteous forms of communication. Such righteous communication and the attitudes behind it are described in Ephesians 4:32. List them below.

What would such communication look like? Can you think of examples or situations where such communication would be important? Is the communication in your relationship like this? What are the problems? What can you do?

QUESTION 6: Nagging is another poor form of communication. Make notes from these verses:

Proverbs 10:19

Proverbs 19:13

Proverbs 27:15

QUESTION 7: Our words in the family setting should build up not tear down.

 First, what if there is a problem that we feel needs to be talked over?...

Matthew 7:1-5

What is the really scary thing about a critical attitude?

Is it wrong to correct a spouse?

What should we check before we do?

Galations 6:1-5

What attitude is needed in helping each other with our weaknesses?

 Second, what should be our normal objective?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Proverbs 10:20-21

Proverbs 12:25

Proverbs 15:4

Proverbs 15:23

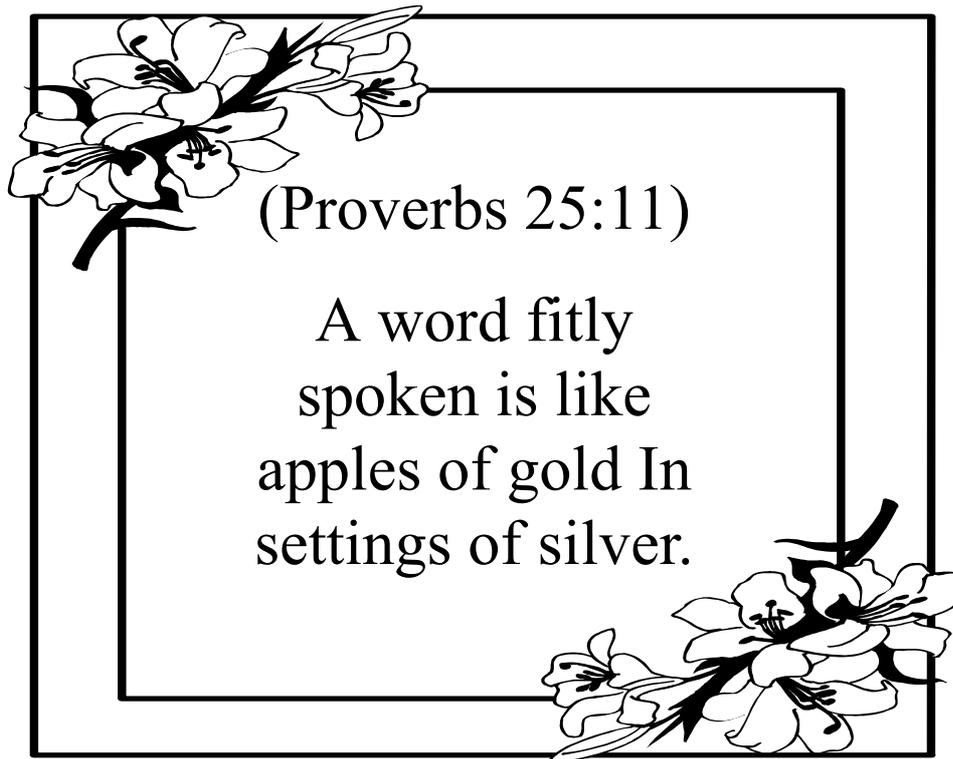
Proverbs 16:24

 Third, when might it be hardest to speak in that kind of way?

Romans 12:17,21

1 Peter 3:8-9

QUESTION 8: In the early part of marriage attitude to the other person is no problem, but as mis-communications and hurts build up we have to begin to work at our attitude to our partner. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What is the attitude that promotes kind communication?





CHAPTER 6



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INTRODUCTION: This chapter will deal with finances. we will cover attitudes to money, budgets, saving, giving, and a host of other financial matters relevant to the family.

QUESTION 1: Attitude to money. Read Proverbs 10:22. Is it possible to plan to be rich? How does a Christian become rich? Even if we of ourselves accumulated wealth what does this verse suggest comes with the money?

What did Christ make a priority in Matthew 6:19-20?

According to 1 Timothy 6:17-19 how might wealth interfere with our spirituality? What advice is given?

Will money help in the end? (Proverbs 11:4)

Is it wrong to be rich? What is God really concerned about?
1 Timothy 6:10

Matthew 19:23

QUESTION 2: God's will in the use of money. Read Matthew 25:14-30. In this parable talents was money. He was teaching us about our use of anything God has given to us (abilities, spiritual gifts, and yes, possessions).
Why was each given a different amount?

Did the owner expect all to get the same results?

What did faithful use of resources amount to? What was the reward?

What did unfaithful use of resources amount to ? What was the reward?

How does God want us to use our possessions?

QUESTION 2 (cont): 'Steward' is a word the Bible uses to describe someone caring for property that is not his own. We might use the word 'caretaker'. When we realise all we have is given by God it is clear that God expects us all to be stewards (looking after his property for Him).

Read Luke 12:16-20. Where did this steward go wrong? Was it in the amount he had?

Should we worry about how much God has given us? What does Christ say should be our major concern? (See Matthew 6:32-33)

If we do feel we are in need what can we do with assurance? (See Mark 11:24)

However what warning does God give to Christians who are poor stewards? (See Luke 16:11)

Some Christians worry because they have a wrong view of God. They are not sure He really loves them and will give them good things. Read Matthew 7:11. What are you going to believe from now on?

Proverbs 3:5-6 is a principle of Christian living. If we apply it to our possessions what would these verses be saying?

What is one thing God may direct us to do? See Deuteronomy 15:11.

QUESTION 3: Dangers of money (Money traps). Read Proverbs 30:7-9. There is danger in both too much and too little money. Explain.

In the Bible borrowing is not necessarily wrong. What happens if too much is borrowed according to Proverbs 22:7?

What does Luke 12:15 have to do with this?

Finally over-borrowing can lead to 'bankruptcy'. But can a Christian take the easy way out in this situation? See Psalm 37:21.

What promise is given to those who honour God and pay back all creditors? (Psalm 50:14-15)

QUESTION 3 (cont):

Greed can lead to a trap and so can over-indulgence. Read Proverbs 21:17. Some poverty is self induced. Explain.

In the Bible debt refers to delinquent financial obligations. Therefore money borrowed is not debt if it is being repaid on time. Why do the following verses oblige Christians to pay bills and repay borrowed money, on time.

Romans 13:8

Proverbs 3:27-28

What does Matthew 6:24 have to say to Christians who spend time worrying about investments, savings, property, or other possessions?

Gambling, get rich quick schemes, buying and selling shares, all have something in common; money without work. What does Proverbs 28:20 have to say?

And Proverbs 21:25-26?

What should a Christian's attitude be to work? (See 2 Thessalonians 3:10)

Satan has a lie that we have to be dishonest to be successful in business. What do these verses have to say?

Proverbs 19:1

Proverbs 20:17

Genesis 39:2

Covetousness is a danger for the Australian Christian. What do you learn about covetousness from these verses?

Psalm 73:2-3

1 Corinthians 5:11

Nether is workaholism an option for Christians..

Matthew 6:33

Yet family needs must be met.

Matthew 15:5-6

1 Timothy 5:8

QUESTION 3. (continued)

Money entanglements occur when we juggle bills and commitments to keep afloat.

What warnings do the Scripture give?
 2 Timothy 2:24

2 Peter 2:20

A self indulgence attitude leads to irresponsible and on-whim spending. What is the Scripture's comment on this?
 Luke 8:14

Success can lead to a feeling of financial superiority. Is this feeling warranted?
 Ezekiel 7:19

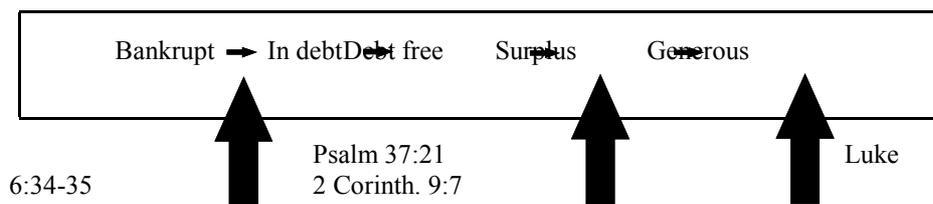
1 Timothy 6:17

Failure can lead to a feeling of resentment to others (and God). Perhaps this is because we have wrong expectations of what God will do for us. Does God always reward faithful service with prosperity?
 See Psalm 73:3

Also, for what reason did God turn Job's successes to failures? see Job 2:3.

What should our attitude be in failure and success? Philippians 4:11-12.

The following bar is a continuum from bankrupt at one end to generous at the other. Where does God want every Christian to be?



QUESTION 4. How to be free of financial worry.

1. Transfer ownership to God.

Who is the owner of all this stuff? See Psalm 24:1

What is Christ really saying in Luke 12:33-34?

Does gathering possessions really lead to happiness? See 1 Timothy 6:9-10

If you had realised everything you have is God's, would 1 Timothy 6:17-19 be easier to obey? Why?

2. Get out of debt. Match the verse to the financial wisdom.

Prov 6:6-8	Think before buying
Rom 13:8	Plan for future needs (Budget)
Luke 14:28	Save
Prov 21:20	Pay cash

3. Follow Biblical principles:

Prov 21:5	Seek God first
Mt 6:31-33	Stop striving leave it with God
Col 3:23	Avoid get rich quick schemes
Psalm 127:1-2	Work for God
1 Tim 5:8	Don't be greedy
1 Tim 6:10	Put past sin right
Lk 19:8	Provide for needs not wants



QUESTION 5. Budgets

Is it God's will for us to make a budget? See Proverbs 24:3-4.

How do you go about making and using a budget in God's will? See Proverbs 16:3, 9.

Step 1. _____ Proverbs 3:9-10, 2 Corinthians 9:11

Step 2. _____ Proverbs 22:7

Step 3. _____ 1 Timothy 6:8-9, Ps 37:7, Heb 13:5

Step 4. _____ Proverbs 27:23

Step 5. _____ Proverbs 13:22, 21:20





CHAPTER 7



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INTRODUCTION: In this chapter we will look at kids and the various issues associated with them.

QUESTION 1: Usually our own family background influences the size family we want as well as how we relate to our own kids. However it is better to go back to the Bible to get our principles. What should a godly family look like? Our basis here will be Psalms 127 and 128.

Psalm 127:1-2. What is needed first and foremost in your family?

What is the danger if this is neglected?

Our society says children are a nuisance. What does verses 3 and 5 say?

What is the object of childrearing according to verse 4? What is implied by comparing parents to a warrior?

How do you know how many children to have according to verse 5? Is world population a consideration? What is the basis for deciding?

Psalm 128. What is the likely family outcome for the godly man?

[The above discussion suggests there is a limit to how many children different couples can handle. Therefore contraception will need to be a consideration at some point. What does the Bible say about contraception? Not much! Why not? Children were spaced about 2½ years apart naturally because of health and nutritional factors. There were natural contraceptive forces acting. Today it is possible to have more kids physically than can be handled financially or emotionally. We have a need of contraception that was not apparent in Bible times. The only principles relevant to contraception that the Bible mentions are these:
Exodus 20:13, Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5. What forms of contraception are excluded by these principles?

1 Corinthians 7:4-5. What methods does this exclude?

]

QUESTION 2: The best summary of childrearing is found in Ephesians 6:4. Read this verse and underline the key words.

(Ephesians 6:4) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Now compare the key words in the following translations:

[NIV] (Ephesians 6:4) Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

[NASV] (Ephesians 6:4) And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Who will answer to the Lord for the way the children are raised in the home?

Is this something then a father can wipe his hands of?

What behaviour of a parent can exasperate children/young people?

How are children to be brought up?

The discipline of the Lord and the instruction of the Lord will be discussed in the following questions.

QUESTION 3: The discipline of the Lord. One area that parents often struggle with is their manner in discipline. Make observations relevant to parental discipline from the following verses

John 1:14

Galations 5:22

2 Timothy 2:24-25

Another area of confusion is spanking. Many modern parents see spanking as equivalent to abuse. If spanking ever becomes abuse this is not the 'discipline of the Lord'. Nevertheless the Bible has strong reasons to be in favour of spanking. Explore the Bible teaching on spanking from these verses:

- Proverbs 22:15

What is the method of punishment used here?

What is the age being punished? (the word 'child' refers to a son or daughter who is no longer a toddler and not yet a teen)

Why is the punishment deemed necessary?

QUESTION 3: (cont.)

- Proverbs 13:24

What is the attitude that leads to discipline?

Can a Christian parent neglect corporeal punishment? (see also Prov 29:15)

- Proverbs 19:18

Is there such a thing as leaving it too late to discipline?

- Proverbs 23:13-14

Is a child likely to complain about discipline?

How should the parent react?

What is the ultimate aim of discipline?

QUESTION 4: The instruction of the Lord obviously involves teaching our children God's Word. An important question however is, 'how do we go about teaching them?'. The following verses will help.

Deuteronomy 6:7

When is the time to teach your kids according to this verse?

How aggressive should you be?

Deuteronomy 6:20

When is another particularly good time according to this verse?

According to Proverbs 22:6, what is the aim of teaching?

In Proverbs 1-7 is a hand book for parents on the important things that must be imparted to children. Match the verses with the category.

<i>VERSE</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>CATEGORY</i>
1:10-19		1. Peaceful living
1:20-33		2. Giving
2:1-22		3. Contentment
3:1-4		4. The advantages of wisdom
3:5-8		5. Discipline
3:9-10		6. Generosity
3:11-12		7. To teach their children also
3:13-26		8. Don't give in to peer pressure
3:27-28		9. Love
3:29-30		10. Financial warning
3:31-35		11. warning against adultery
4:1-9		12. The call of wisdom
4:10-19		13. Faith
4:20-27		14. Discernment of men
5:1-14, 6:20-27		15. Having righteousness
5:15-23		16. Faithfulness to spouse
6:1-5		17. Know what the Lord hates
6:6-11		18. Value of wisdom
6:12-15		19. Diligence
6:16-20		20. Choosing righteousness

QUESTION 5: Whilst 1 Timothy 4:12 is not written to parents it is written to someone in spiritual authority. What implications does it have for parenting?

QUESTION 6: There will come the day when your own child will do according to Genesis 2:24. What will be your part in this? How can you begin to prepare for that day from the beginning?

QUESTION 7: Those in spiritual leadership have to have children who are living right. What are primary goals according to the following verses?

1 Timothy 3:3

1 Timothy 3:12

Titus 1:6

QUESTION 8: Parental burn out is a common problem in our age. Elijah is a man of God who experienced burn out. Whilst his burn out was not from a parenting situation the causes of burn out and solutions remain the same. There had been a growing tension between King Ahab and Elijah. It came to a head on one day. List Elijah's activities on that day from 1 Kings 18:17-46.

How would have you felt at the end of that day?

But that was not the end. what happened next? 19:1-2

How did Elijah react? (See 19:3-4)

How would you describe his mental state?

Was this consistent with an idolatry-fighting prophet?

Why the change?

QUESTION 8: (cont.) Read 1 Kings 19:5-18, and describe the steps in God's restoration of Elijah. Now, are you able to say what is needed to turn around the exhaustion of burn out?

QUESTION 9: It is also common for parents to feel that they are failures. Whilst the Scripture does not contain any examples of what to do for discouraged parents, specifically, it does tell us how to approach discouragement in ministry and in our Christian lives in general. There are many places we can look, but one place is Psalm 40:1-3.

What two things did the psalmist do in these verses?

What six things did the Lord do for the psalmist?

Where did the new song come from?

What was the old song?

What were the results of the Lord doing these things for the psalmist? (v3)

Describe your pit and 'miry clay'

What are you doing about it?

Is it what the psalmist did?

What can you expect the Lord to do for you also?

What can you expect to be the result for you also?

So then what should be your attitude to your present situation? See also Romans 8:28 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

When can you expect God to do this work in your life?

Suggestion. Write out these three verses on cards and place them around where you work and live. Savour them throughout the day!
