

We live in a world where marriages and families are falling apart. The statistics are frightening. 50% of all marriages are ending in divorce and that number is for those in the church as well as those outside the church. Almost 70% of second marriages will end in divorce and that number increases to 75-80% if married for the third time. One other thing that you may find shocking is that the number of divorces is actually decreasing. Now before you start celebrating and saying it is about time we get some good news, you may be interested in knowing why this is true. There are less people getting married, instead they live together, sleep together, or decide to become "partners" in a relationship that they can just walk away from at any time with no strings attached. This is true both inside and outside the church. The church should be ashamed of itself. How can we sit by and watch this happen and not step in to do something? Where are the pastors who can step in to stop the hemorrhaging of the church? That is a really good question. Let's look at the shepherds who are supposed to be leading their flocks to the green pastures and the quiet waters.

Reading a survey done with over 1,000 evangelical preachers will enlighten you as to why they are not helping this issue. They don't have a bandaid to lend let alone the tourniquet that would be necessary to stop the flow of blood. 89% considered leaving the ministry at least once. Over 50% of them are divorced or in the process of a divorce. 77% don't feel as though they have a good marriage. 75% felt that they were unqualified and/or poorly trained by their seminaries to lead and manage a church let alone to counsel those with problems. 71% said they were burned out. 40% said they have had an extra-marital affair since the beginning their ministry. 70% fight depression. 80% who graduate from Bible school and enter the ministry will leave within the first five years. Now that we know why the shepherds are having a hard time leading their flock, or dealing with these situations in a Biblical manner, how is this affecting the new and upcoming generation?

Seldom, do parents have any idea of how devastating divorce can be to the children involved. Unstable families will have an unbelievable affect on the children. 50% of children will see the breakup of their parents' marriage and most likely the breakup of a second marriage, too. 10% of American children will experience three or more parental breakups. Over 40% of all children are being raised without their father or a father figure in their lives. Studies have shown that children coming from broken homes earn lower grades and are less pleasant to be around. About 50% of these children will need psychological help. Children who have lost a parent to death will have far fewer psychological problems than children who have lost a parent due to divorce. Children coming from a divorced home are at greater risk of injury, asthma, headaches, speech defects, and other health problems. A child in a female-headed home is ten times more likely to be beaten or murdered. 80-90% of long-term prison inmates grew up in broken

homes. Children from broken homes are twice as likely to attempt suicide. Children of divorced parents are two times more likely to drop out of school. 70-80% of children coming from broken homes will have marriages that also end in divorce.

What are we doing to our children? What are we teaching this new generation? It is time to start teaching them the Word of God. We need to bring our own lives under the authority and control of Jesus Christ, so that we set an example for the next generation. It is time to become the men and women that God intends for us to be, and that needs to start right now.

I wish I had known these concepts before I got married, but I didn't. I made a lot of mistakes not only with my spouse but also with my children. This course will help get you on the right track and arm you with information that can help others as well. There are so few that have the answers to our questions, but the answers are all laid out in God's Word. All we have to do is look for them!

This course is for everyone. Single, married, teenager, adult, widowed, divorced - you need to understand these important truths. Your knowledge regarding men, women, their roles, and marriage can equip you to reach out and help the hurting people around you.

There are many books out there. Unfortunately, there are very few that are based on the truths of God's Word. We need to understand and be able to explain to others

- What God says about the roles of men and women and their God-given responsibilities**
- What the difference is between men and women not just physically but emotionally, mentally, and spiritually and how to keep those lines from becoming blurred**
- What God says about love, sex, communication, and handling finances**
- What God says about raising children**
- What God says about the permanence of marriage, about divorce and remarriage**
- What God says about how marriage and the home are the center for society, and they were ordained by Him to be an earthly picture of a divine relationship between Christ and His church**

It is time to wake up! It is time for us to examine the standards by which we live. Are we going to look at our lives and decide, they don't look too bad when compared to the world, or are we going to hold our lives up to the standard of God's Word? Let us be faithful to God, our Maker, and allow Him to instruct us on how we should live.

DAY 1

Do you know the purpose for which you were created? If you don't understand how and why God created you, how then are you going to be the man, woman, husband, or wife you are supposed to be? To become a man or woman of God, you first need to know God and understand how He has created you. You need to go to His Word and allow His Word to teach you how you are to live.

I will make you this guarantee. If you learn what God's Word says, if you step out in faith and do what He tells you to do, applying His Word to your life every single day (not with an attitude of I'll try it and see if it gets me what I want), then you will watch your life change, your relationships blossom, and find the contentment and joy you have searched for in your life. But you are going to need to be willing to change. You are going to need to be willing to put aside all the wrong things you were taught by the world, by the church, or by the people and their examples in your life. If you are willing to bow before the Lord and move out of His way, He can begin a transformation in your life.

Make sure you to start each days' study in prayer. You are coming to God's truth, and they are not truths that we can accept and understand in our humanness, ". . . for the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God" - I Corinthians 2:11.

1. Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It tells us that in six days, God created the world and everything that is in it. Man was created on the sixth day. Therefore, to begin our study, we need to read and observe what God's says about the sixth day. So to begin our study, let's read Genesis 1:24-31. You will find these verses printed out for you in your observation worksheet section on OWS page 5. These worksheets are just that. They are places that you can work. We will be marking these up, making lists, and writing notes on them.
2. Now that you have read over Genesis 1, let's read it again. This time we are going to observe the passage. If you are unsure of how to observe a chapter or a portion of Scripture, there are instructions on OWS pages 1-3 of your observation worksheets. As you read, you want to mark the following key words. I know that marking can be intimidating for many people so I am going to tell you how I mark things to get you started. You can use my suggestions or come up with your own, but please mark! You will come to realize how important this is as you spend more time doing it.
 - a. *God* (along with pronouns or synonyms referring to the Godhead) - I use a purple triangle
 - b. *Make* or *made* (I use a green hand)
 - c. *Man* (I use a blue stick figure)
 - d. *Image* (I circle this in yellow)

- e. *Created* (I underline in brown)
- f. *Said* (I use a megaphone in red)

3. Now that you marked the key words, let's go back and look at what you marked and make some notes on them. In the right-hand margin of your worksheet, we are going to make a list of all that God commanded man to do. Title this list "God's Commands to Man."
4. On page 6 of your observation worksheets, there is a chart to fill out with some other information about this passage. Fill in this chart in as much detail as possible. Write the verse number next to your observation for quick and easy reference.

DAY 2

As you begin to read Genesis chapter 2, it may seem that we have another account of creation. However, what the author is doing is giving you an overview of creation in chapter 1, and then focusing in on the details of day six in chapter 2. Why would he go to so much time to write a whole chapter about day six? Because that was the day of God's greatest creation - man. God gives us details of man's creation as well as the place that God provided for him, and what God presented to him. So as we begin to explore Genesis 2, remember that God is showing you the preciousness of His ultimate creation.

1. Read through Genesis 2. This is located on OWS pages 7-9.
2. Now read through Genesis 2 as many times as necessary to mark all your key words. Remember, key words are words that are repeated and are of great importance to the text. If you mark some of the same words as you did in chapter 1, then make sure that you mark them the same way.
3. There is a chart on page 10 to record what you learned from this chapter.

DAY 3

I am going to warn you right now that we are going to touch on certain passages of Scripture and then move on. You might feel that we have not covered them in depth, and most likely, you would be right. We will revisit some of these Scriptures several times as we cover different topics. Right now, our goal is to find out how God created the man and the woman and nothing more. We are laying the foundation for everything else that we will study in this course. You will see how important this is in the future.

1. Today you are going to observe a passage in I Corinthians 11. Read through I Corinthians 11:3-12. This is located on OWS page 11. As you read through this passage, remember our purpose - how did God create man and woman and how do they relate to one another? This is not a lesson about head coverings, so don't let that sidetrack you right now.
2. Now read through this passage again. This time mark any key words that you observed.
3. Read through these verses again and as you observe the text, make a list of all that you learn in the left side margin of your worksheet about the man and all that you learn about a woman.
4. As you read through this passage, you probably saw that there was an order of headship mentioned. Write this order of headship in the right side margin of your worksheet.
5. On the bottom or on the back of your worksheet, you can list any other insights you may have on this passage, as well as any questions that you may have. If you have questions, I suggest that you highlight them so they are easy to see. Then as you continue through this study, you can look back over these questions and see if you have found answers to them.

DAY 4

There is one last passage that you are going to look at this week. It is found in the letter of I Peter. I Peter is not a book about marriage; it is a book about suffering. Now I know what some of you are thinking, "If it is about suffering, it must be about marriage." I pray that we can fix that mindset in a couple of weeks. Peter's emphasis is that no matter what circumstance you find yourself in, make sure that your suffering comes from doing what is right, not from doing what is wrong. It deals with several different relationships and how you deal with and treat each other within those relationships. It does touch on the man and the woman, so let's see what it can teach us.

1. Read I Peter 3:7-12 on OWS page 13. As you read this passage, you will note that verses 8-12 is a statement that has to do with how you are to treat all people, and if you are married, your spouse would be included in that list!
2. Read through this passage again and mark your key words and observe all you can following those steps of observation. When you have finished marking the key words, list what you learned about the man (husband) and the woman (wife) in the margins of worksheet.
3. On the back of the worksheet (page 14) there is another chart to list some of the things that you may have missed.

DAY 5

Today you are going to work on digesting all this information. It is important that you take the time to process what you have looked at so far. Please don't cut this assignment short. Give it the time it deserves.

1. Read through all the verses that we have worked on this week. Look over the charts and lists that you have filled out. Then move on to the next step.

2. Here are a couple of things to think on and evaluate in your own life.

a. List any new insights that you have on the man and the woman - how God made them, what their purpose is.

b. What have you seen about a man, a woman, and a marriage relationship, that doesn't line up with what you have seen, what you have thought, or what you have been taught?

c. If you are married, is there anything that you are seeing that is a problem in your life or in your marriage. Notice that I didn't ask about seeing problems with your spouse. That is not your concern; that is God's concern! You can only work on and change yourself. It is not your job to change your spouse!

d. What have you learned this week about yourself, that with God's help you can apply to your life and begin that transformation that God wants to bring to your life?

Biblical Principles of
Marriage and Family
Lesson 1 - Man and Woman

Ladies, the focus is going to be on you for the next two weeks. You might want to put some boots on because we are going to be wading through some tough stuff, and you might get your toes stepped on.

Men, you don't get to zone out. I Peter 3:7 tells you to live with your wife in an understanding way. In order for you to do that now, as a husband, or in the future as a perspective husband, that means you are going to have to understand how God made her. Only then can you cherish her, love her, and nourish her as you are commanded to do.

When we look around at our country, we will notice that the lines have been blurred between the sexes. The women's lib movement swept across our country with women demanding to be treated just like men. "We can do anything men can do!" they espoused. "Treat us as equals!" Now there are almost as many women in the work place as men. They have taken their places in the boardrooms, the lunchrooms, even the locker rooms. They are now functioning in those high stress positions. Women achieved equality! Job well done!

What did the women receive because of this new won position in society? They have achieved fame, fortune, recognition, and some have even earned the respect of their male counterparts. They also have achieved the same levels of heart attacks, strokes, heart disease, and cancer. Their house is no longer a home it is a necessary, and sometimes even annoying, pit stop in a harried lifestyle. Meals are not eaten as a family; children are being raised by day cares and babysitters; families are torn apart; divorce seems to be the only option. When they finally take time to evaluate what went wrong, the conclusion usually is, they must have married the wrong man, and marrying a different one will make all the difference.

Someone once said, be careful what you wish for because it just might come true. Women have achieved much, but how high of a price were they willing to pay? It is time to look at God's way of doing things, but be ready because God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways. When you are confronted with His truths, are you going to be willing to do something about it? Are you willing to change your life and allow it to conform to His standards? Ladies, this is when it gets tough.

Men, your turn is coming up in a couple of weeks. The spotlight will be turned, and then you will be confronted with the same question. For now, when you read through what God expects from the ladies, you need to understand that the concepts presented in God's word fly in the face of everything the world tells a woman she is to be. And a woman being submissive is extremely hard for her

because it is against her very nature - the sinful nature with which we all have to deal.

DAY 1

We are looking at the role of a woman. What role does she play in the world and in the marriage relationship? The word "role" means the function that she performs in a given situation. It is a prescribed pattern of behavior within a given service or duty.

We are going to look at the roles of both men and women. We need to discover what God requires for both the man and the woman in the world, in the home, and in the family. What is the pattern of behavior for a woman, wife, mother? What responsibilities does a man have as a man, husband, and father?

1. At the end of this lesson, on page 20, there is a chart entitled "Role of a Woman." You are going to use this chart to compile information that you gather from various passages this week. You will be looking for the following things.
 - a. Character and Attitudes
 - b. Responsibilities as a Wife
 - c. Responsibilities as a Homemaker
 - d. Responsibilities as a Mother (this will be covered in more detail when we get to the lessons dealing with family and children)
2. Go back over the four passages we studied last week and fill in the chart. Remember, our focus is just the woman.
 - a. Genesis 1:24-31
 - b. Genesis 2
 - c. I Corinthians 11:3-12
 - d. I Peter 3:7-12

DAY 2

1. We read Genesis 1 and 2. Today we are going to touch on Genesis 3. Life changed in the first couple of verses of Genesis 3. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now they were sinners (Romans 5:12). There was now a problem in their spiritual condition. They were no longer in perfect fellowship with God; they were now sinners with a desire to do things their own way instead of God's; therefore, God needed to give them more rules. He needed to explain to them how they needed to function within their roles. Now we go to Genesis 3:16. Read through this verse and mark it in anyway you find helpful.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman He said,
"I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth,
in pain you shall bring for children;
yet your desire will be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

2. There is controversy as what the phrase "yet your desire will be for your husband" means. Let's do a word study on the word *desire*. Let's see what it means in the original language of Hebrew, and how it is used other places in the Old Testament.
 - a. The Hebrew word is teshuwqah
 - i. Strong's #8669
 - ii. It means a stretching out after or longing
 - iii. Comes from the primary root #7783 shuwq
 - b. The root word is shuwq
 - i. Strong's #7783
 - ii. It means to run after or to run over
 - c. Where is teshuwqah used in the Old Testament?
 - i. Genesis 3:16
 - ii. Genesis 4:4
 - iii. Song of Solomon 7:10
 - d. When we look at the two definitions we get two different meanings
 - i. It could mean a longing or a deep desire

- ii. It could also mean a desire for the husband's position - a running after or over him

- e. Since there are two entirely different meanings, let's see if how this word is used elsewhere in Scripture helps us to determine the meaning in this context. This word is only used two other places, so look up both of these verses, read them in context, and write down which meaning you think is being used in that particular verse. Also write down the context, what is happening or being talked about when this word is used.
 - i. Genesis 4:4

 - ii. Song of Solomon 7:10

- f. You may have found that to be a futile exercise. It seems that one means one thing, the other verse has a different meaning. So, if that didn't help, then let's look at the context of Genesis 3:16. Answer the following questions and see if you can come to a conclusion on your own as to how *desire* is being used in this verse. Read all of Genesis 3 if you are not familiar enough with the passage to answer these questions.
 - i. What did Adam and Eve just do?

 - ii. When God came to the garden, what did Adam and Eve do?

 - iii. When God asked Adam what he did, how did he respond?

 - iv. When God asked Eve what she did, how did she respond?

 - v. In verses 14-15, what does God pronounce and on whom?

vi. What is happening in verse 16?

vii. If this is a curse (a punishment because of sin) do you think that this "desire" would be a positive or negative thing for the woman? Explain what you think Genesis 3:16 means.

viii. Do you know of any commands through the New Testament to a woman that would be a reminder of this "problem?"

3. We are now going to look at a cross-reference to Adam and Eve. Read I Timothy 2:9-15 and look for instructions directed toward women. Observe the passage, marking your key words. You will find this printed out on OWS page 15. Answer the following questions and then record pertinent information on your chart.

a. How is a woman supposed to adorn herself?

b. The woman is instructed to learn "quietly" (in silence, KJV). This word is used twice in the passage. Let's do a word study on it.

i. Silence - #2271 - hesuchia

ii. Meaning - stillness, quietness, desistance from bustle, implying calm and inner tranquility

iii. Doesn't mean speechlessness which would be #4602 - sige

- c. Two words that we now want to take a look at would be the words used for *man* and *woman* in I Timothy 2:11, 12. There are several words that the author could have used for man and woman but he choose these particular words. Let's look at them.
 - i. Woman
 1. #1135 - gune
 2. Definition - a woman, specifically a wife
 - ii. Man
 1. #435 - aner
 2. Definition - a man, a husband, normally referring to husband when used opposite woman
 - iii. One other interesting note on this passage. Note that both man and woman are singular in form and not plural.
4. Let's look at another passage that uses these same two words. Read I Corinthians 7:3-4. When you read this passage you can see how these same words are used in the context. Note your observations.
5. Considering everything you have looked at, now go back to the 1 Timothy passage and try to explain what the author was trying to communicate. Many use this text to say that women cannot be teachers in the church. Is this what the author is communicating?
6. Does this help you determine anything about the authority of the husband over the wife or the relationship between the two? Note your insights.
7. Record any information on your chart Role of a Woman on page 20.

DAY 3

Today we are going to be observing Ephesians 5:15-33. This is going to be a critical passage that will be looked at various times. The focus is primarily on the husband, but we can learn so much about the relationship between a man and a woman. Prayerfully read through this passage. You will find it on OWS pages 17-18.

1. Read straight through this passage. Just see what it says.
2. Now read through the passage marking your key words or phrases.
3. Read through it again making any pertinent lists on the words that you marked.
4. Complete your observations using all applicable steps for Observing a Chapter on OWS pages 1-3.
5. Mark any information about the woman on your chart Role of a Woman on page 20.

DAY 4

These next two days are going to be a little light on the homework, but I hope you use the time to reflect on your own life.

Women - prayerfully go over the Scriptures from this week and see if your life conforms to what the Word of God says it should be.

Men - prayerfully go over these Scriptures and determine whether you are allowing your wife to fulfill her designed place in God's plan.

Men, if you are not married, allow God to begin to develop in your mind what a good marriage should be and the type of woman you should be looking for in a perspective mate.

We still have a long way to go in this study. We are still setting the foundation of what a man and a woman should be. Until we understand that, we have no chance of having relationships that will be pleasing to God.

1. We are going to continue to look at our passage in Ephesians 5. So to start off this new day, let's read the passage once again. By the way, this would be a fantastic portion of Scripture to memorize, especially for the men. However, ladies, you would greatly benefit from memorizing it as well. There are some important commands that you need to see for yourself. That will be our topic today. So take time and read Ephesians 5.

2. We are going to do word studies on two words. Feel free to use your own Strong's Concordance, Complete Word Study Old or New Testament, Vine's, or any other source you may have to do your own study. I have just chosen to put this information in here knowing that some of you don't have study tools to do this yourself.
 - a. Be subject (submit, KJV)
 - i. Hupotasso - #5293 - to arrange in an orderly manner, appoint, determine, ordained - a military term - a voluntary lining up in order
 1. Hupo #5259 - put under, or place beneath
 2. Tasso #5021 - be under obedience

 - b. Respect (reverence, KJV)
 - i. Phobeo - #5399
 - ii. Fear exceedingly, to be in awe of, to be sore afraid, revere, be in reverence of

3. Paul uses the same word for *submit* or being *subject* in Colossians 3:18. It says, "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting to the Lord." Since we already know what the word *subject* means, let's take a look at what the word *fitting* means.
 - a. Aneko - #433 - that which is fitting, becoming, proper
 - i. Ana - #303 - repetition, intensity, completing a process
 - ii. Heko - #2240 - to come

 - b. More in depth definition
 - i. It is to come up to a particular standard or expectation
 - ii. to do that which is proper
 - iii. to give what is due or suitable
 - iv. doing what is appropriately acceptable

 - c. Although we will spend much time on this subject next week, I believe it is appropriate at this time to look at why a woman is to submit to her husband. So looking at this verse and the definitions of *subject* and *fitting*, explain the motivation and the action that is required from a wife.

- d. The last thing that you are going to do is go back to the Ephesians 5:22 and see how this compares to the Colossians 3:18 passage.

4. Record what you have observed on your chart "Role of a Woman."

DAY 5

Today we are going to look at this idea of headship. We will review some verses that we have already read and add some new verses that I hope will bless you as you explore this idea of what it means to be under headship and voluntarily placing yourself where God commands you to be. This is not a choice if you want to walk in His will. If you choose to not line up in your proper place, then you are not walking in God's will.

1. Reread I Corinthians 11:3 on OWS page 11. Draw a diagram of the order of headship as it is listed in I Corinthians.

- a. What is Christ's relationship to God the Father?

- b. Read John 10:30-33 and John 5:18. Was Jesus any less than God?

c. Not let's look at Philippians 2:5-8 and John 5:30. How did Jesus live in relationship to the Father?

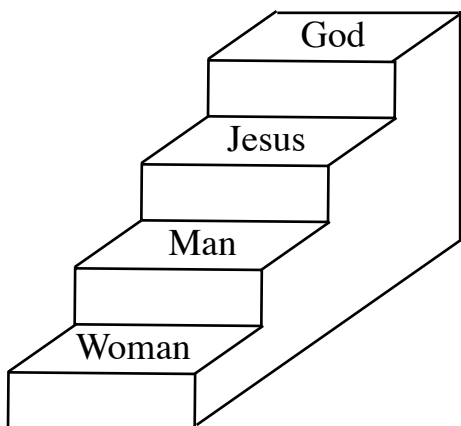
d. Read John 5:26-27. Did Jesus still have and execute authority?

e. How did what you learn about the relationship between Jesus and God relate to the man and woman and their relationship and the headship issue?

f. If a woman is going to be one with God so that she reflects to the world the character and the work of Jesus Christ, how can she do it in her role as a wife?

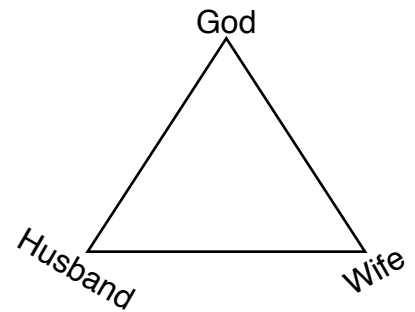
2. Record all that you have learned today on "Role of a Woman."

3. I am going to give a couple of pictures of what we are talking about to maybe help you visualize some of these concepts.



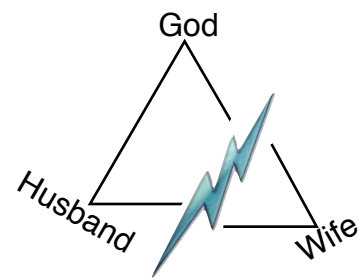
Here is a staircase showing the headship order that God has put in place. If a woman steps out of her rightful place, she knocks the man out of his place. Neither one was designed to stand on the other step, which leaves the stairway with the bottom two steps vacant. This leaves a perilous predicament which breaks the relationship not only with the husband but with God as well. You are systematically dismembering what God has built.

If you look at the triangle to the right, you see that God is at the head with the husband and wife at the bottom two corners. If the husband and wife strive to get closer to God, you will notice that they are also getting closer to each other.



In the bottom triangle, you can see what happens. If the wife pulls away from her husband, she is also pulling away from God. The same is true for the husband. In the same way, if you begin pulling away from God, you will also cause damage to your relationship with your spouse.

*Here is something to think long and hard about. **IF** you are not in the right relationship with your spouse, **YOU CANNOT BE** in a right relationship with God! If there is a breach in the relationship between husband and wife, there is also a breach in the relationship with God. You cannot fix one without fixing the other!*



4. How has God spoken to you over this last week? What areas in your life are you seeing that need to be worked on? How are you going to work on this aspect of your life? How are you going to allow God to change your thoughts, attitudes, and actions? Talk to Him about it in prayer.

Role of a Woman

Character and Attitudes	Responsibilities as a Wife	Responsibilities as a Homemaker	Responsibilities as a Mother

It amazes me how so many people can misunderstand the role of submission. Bring it up to a woman, and she will become very defensive with phrases like, "I am going to be no man's slave!" Bring it up to a man and there are these ideas of oppressiveness and, "I can do anything I want, and she can't tell me any different!"

Where do we get these ideas? Have we allowed the world to redefine the Bible? This week our job is to Biblically define submission and what that means in a woman's life. Ladies, allow God's word to speak to you and show you His heart because that is not what is communicated in our world today, nor within the walls of the church!

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

Before we begin today, I want to briefly review what we learned about a woman the last two weeks.

- 1) We saw that because of sin, a woman's tendency is to run over top of the man.
- 2) We saw that God established the order for the woman to place herself under man's authority.
- 3) We see that a woman is supposed to show a quiet, teachable, submissive spirit at all times.
- 4) We saw that a woman is to respect her husband (the authority God has placed over her).
- 5) We saw that women submit so that the Lord is honored - relationship with God has got to be number one, then relationship to husband.
- 6) We understand the equality between woman and man, but that she is the completer of man (helper suitable) - a woman's job by God is to be a completer of man!
- 7) We also saw (from week 1) that a command from God was to be fruitful and multiply.

Should we just stop there and think about what God's Word has said to this point and how skewed our thinking is? Your success as a woman of the Lord depends on how well you are performing in this role.

Do you see how much living in this world predominated by a woman's lib's point of view has caused us to veer off-course? The church is not much better. Pastors suggest to the wife to keep her own money in separate accounts, just in case something happens. Pastors suggest birth control because after all you need to make your mark in the world before you are burdened down by children (as though children are some horrible disfiguring disease that are to be prevented). Once a girl turns 18, she is free to do

anything she wants because she is now on her own. This was certainly my stand before studying Scripture

1. Let's start our week by reading a couple of passages about a woman's place in the home. Written out below is Titus 2:3-5. Read it carefully. Mark it in anyway that it will be helpful to you doing your usual observations. Make a list of the characteristics of an older woman and a younger woman.

Titus 2:3-5

³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

⁵ *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be

Older Women	Younger Women

2. Important question! Why are the women to do this?

3. It is important that if the women are to be doing these things, they need to understand what they are to be doing. We are going to look at some of the words in the original language of Greek. Again, if you have the tools at home, feel free to do your own word studies.
 - a. Love - Titus 2:4
 - i. Strong's #5362
 1. Philandros - phil = fond, andros = husband
 2. Affectionate, loving as a friend
 3. Brotherly love
 - ii. Strong's #5388
 1. Philoteknos - philo = fond, teknos = children
 2. Affectionate, loving as a friend

 - b. Sensible (discreet, KJV) - Titus 2:5 - note how a woman would show this in her daily life.
 - i. Strong's #4998
 1. Sophron
 2. Of sound mind
 3. a person who limits his own freedom and ability with proper thinking demonstrating self-control with the proper restraints on all the passions and desires
 4. One who voluntarily places limitations on his freedom
 5. Moderate as to opinion or passion

c. Workers at home (keepers at home, KJV) - Titus 2:5

i. Strong's #3626

1. Oikouros - oikos = house; ouros - a keeper
2. A keeper at home
3. One who looks after domestic affairs with prudence and care
4. A guard, beware, a stayer at home
5. Domestically inclined

4. Over in I Timothy 5:14 there is a similar passage showing a woman's relationship to her home. This is a really neat concept with a bit of twist on the Titus passage. You are going to look at the Greek word for "keep house" (guide the house, KJV). Before you say that this passage doesn't apply because it has to do with widows, they are still married and this relates to their relationship with the home and having children.

a. Strong's #3616

- i. Oikodespoteo
- ii. To be the head of a family
- iii. Guide the house
- iv. House holder
- v. Master of the house
- vi. The master of a house, exercising all authority with the emphasis on absolute rule
- vii. To govern or manage a household or domestic affairs of a family

5. Record what you have learned on the chart "The Role of a Woman" from last week, page 20.

DAY 3 AND DAY 4

1. We are going to start this lesson by looking at another Scripture. It is printed out on OWS 19-20. Read through this passage of I Peter 2:18-3:6. Do your observation steps on this portion of Scripture marking your key words and phrases, making lists, looking for contrasts, comparisons, etc. This is quite a powerful passage, so give it the time you need to be thorough. When you have completed your observations, then answer these questions.
 - a. I Peter 3:1 starts with the phrase "in the same way, you wives . . ." In what way? To what was Peter comparing the wives' actions. Give a complete answer to this question.

 - b. Slaves were to be obedient to their masters. What were their masters like?

 - c. The word for submissive in I Peter 2:18 and in I Peter 3:1 is the same word - hupotasso. It is the same word that we looked at in Ephesians 2:22. Just to refresh your memory, write the definition of this word below.

2. There are quite a few words in this passage that we need to understand. We are going to take the time to do word studies on these words. Again, if you have the tools feel free to do your own study.
 - a. Unreasonable (froward, KJV) - I Peter 2:18
 - i. Strong's # 4646
 - ii. Skolios
 - iii. Warped, winding, perverted, unjust, wicked, crooked
 - iv. Example of green lumber - if lined up properly when heated, tried, fired will come out straight and strong; if it is not lined up properly it will become warped or bent

- b. Example - I Peter 2:21
 - i. Strong's #5261
 - ii. Hypogrammos under writing
 - iii. Copy for imitation, example
 - iv. Writing copy of the teacher was to be followed by the students
 - v. Easiest way to teach a child to write letters is to give them something to trace (underwriting)

- c. Reviled - I Peter 2:23 (this word is used twice and it has two definitions so we want to look at them both)
 - i. Strong's #3058 (when He was reviled)
 - 1. Loidoreo comes from #3060
 - 2. Reproach, to vilify, to blaspheme
 - 3. #3060 - loidoros
 - a. Abusive - verbally
 - b. Someone acting in a dishonorable or contemptible way
 - c. Disgrace, discredit, subject to scorn and disapproval
 - ii. Strong's #486 (did not revile in return)
 - 1. Antiloidoreo from #3058
 - a. To rail in reply
 - b. Rail = to complain or protest strongly and persistently

- d. Deceit (guile, KJV) - I Peter 2:22
 - i. Strong's #1388
 - ii. Dolos
 - iii. Crafty, a trick, bait, wile, fraud
 - iv. Deceitful cunning

- e. Disobedient (obey not, KJV) - I Peter 3:1
 - i. Strong's #544
 - ii. Apeitheo
 - iii. Disbelief - willfully and perversely, not believe, not obey
 - iv. This is a continuous action (present active indicative). What does this tell you about the husband's behavior?

- f. Chaste - I Peter 3:2
 - i. Strong's #53
 - ii. Hagnos
 - iii. Clean, free from defilement or impurities
 - iv. Figuratively - pure, clean, perfect, modest, innocent

- g. Behavior (conversation, KJV) - I Peter 3:2
 - i. Strong's #391
 - ii. Anastrophe
 - iii. To turn up, to move about, a turning about, mode of life, conduct, behavior, deportment

- h. Respectful (fear, KJV) - I Peter 3:2
 - i. Strong's #5401
 - ii. Phobos
 - iii. To be put in fear, alarm, fright, terror
 - iv. Reverence, respect, honor,
 - v. To have a reverential awe of God and toward God

i. Gentle (meek, KJV) - I Peter 3:4

i. Strong's #4239

ii. Praus

iii. Mild, humble, meek, forbearance

iv. Not an outward expression of feeling but an inward grace of the soul, calmness toward God, and acceptance of God's dealings with us considering them good in that they enhance our closeness of our relationship with Him.

v. Can still express wrath against sin.

vi. Meekness does not blame God for the persecutions and evil doings of man

vii. Meekness is not a sign of weakness!

j. Quiet - I Peter 3:4

i. Strong's #2272

ii. Hesuchios

iii. Keeping one's seat, still, undisturbed, peaceable, tranquil, undisturbed from without

3. I Peter 2:21 says that Jesus left us an example to follow. A guide that we are to copy. If we are to copy what He has done, it would be good for us to understand what He has done.

a. Read through I Peter 2:21-25 and list all the things that Jesus did that we should be diligent to copy in our lives.

b. What role does God play in this example?

4. I know this is a really tough question in application, but according to I Peter 2:20, what is favorable and acceptable to God?

5. Write any information on the chart "The Role of the Woman."

DAY 5

This is going to be a day of reflection and soul searching. There are going to be issues brought up that you may never have had to think about that may make you uncomfortable. This is not about comfort, it is about knowing that if we abide by the Word of God, we will be blessed by Him, and we will receive our reward for living in obedience to Him. If we choose to do things our own way because that is what the world (and even the church endorses) then we can expect nothing more than strife, hardship, discontentment with life, and yes, to have our world and our family come crashing down around us. God made us; He knows how we work. We need to come to a point where we are willing to let Him tell us how we are to live, even if that means making major changes in our lives. Are you ready for that? I Peter 3:6 encourages the women to do what is right without being frightened by ANY fear!

1. It is very clear from Scripture that God created the woman for some specific purposes. Read through these purposes, and think back to all the Scripture we have read and observed.
 - a. She was created for the man, to be his helpmeet, his completer, to work along side of man, and to bring glory to man
 - b. She was created to be fruitful and multiply - this was to be a blessing to her and her husband. Read I Timothy 5:14 again.
 - c. She was created to be the keeper of the home, the guide of the house.
 - d. She was created as a fellow heir with the man, equal to him in all respects.
 - e. She was commanded to voluntarily place herself under the authority of man (submit) and to keep herself in a spirit of submissiveness under the headship of the man.

2. This idea of a woman being under headship is something that we need to look at in a little more depth.
 - a. God created Adam first, and then He created Eve to be a suitable helper for him (Genesis 2)

 - b. God gave the man the responsibility to leave father and mother and cleave to his wife - man is the initiator of the new family unit (Genesis 2)

 - c. Woman was the one deceived by Satan, Adam made a conscious decision to listen to his wife instead of God (Genesis 3; I Timothy 2:4)

- d. Woman's tendency is going to be to run over the man, and take matters into her own hands, but the man was to rule over the woman and the woman is to voluntarily place herself under his headship (Genesis 3:16; I Corinthians 11; all the submission passages)
- e. The father is responsible to be the head over his daughter until the daughter has a husband. We see this responsibility in a woman making a vow before the Lord. That vow can be annulled by the father, if she is under his headship, or the husband, if she is under his headship. (Numbers 30)
- f. We see examples in the Old Testament of women who look to the authority of their heads for permission or advice, instead of acting on their own.
 - i. Sarah and Abraham (Genesis 12-22) - and look at the mess that happened when Sarah did come up with a plan to have a child and Abraham listened to the voice of his wife instead of listening and trusting God
 - ii. Rebekah seeking permission from her father and brother to go with Abraham's servant to become a bride to Isaac (Genesis 24)
 - iii. Ruth, falling under the headship of the closest male relative to Naomi (Ruth)
 - iv. Esther looking to Mordecai for guidance - Mordecai would have been her cousin because Esther was his uncle's daughter. She had no parents so Mordecai brought her up as his own daughter - he took headship for her and she lived under that headship. (Esther 2:5-7; remaining book of Esther)
- g. I Corinthians 11
 - i. God created the order - God - Christ - man - woman (3)
 - ii. Man is the glory of God, woman is the glory of man - there is a covering between woman and Christ - that covering is a man - an authority (7)
 - iii. Woman came from man not man from woman, and she was created for his sake and not him for her sake (8-9)
 - iv. There needs to be authority over her head - there needs to be a covering over her and that covering is a man (10)
- h. Why is the woman to have a head - a covering?
 - i. It is God's order
 - ii. She is commanded to have a submissive spirit - to voluntarily place herself under the authority of a head - it is proper and fitting to the Lord
 - iii. It is this spirit of submission that gives the air of gentleness and calm that a woman it to have - she can have that calm because she is not worried about the things of the world and the pressures of providing for the family because that is not her role - this is a spirit of humility and humbleness - there is an openness and an air of innocence when a woman takes her place and lives in dependance on a man - and that carries over to him to then step up to the

- plate and take care of those who depend on him and can't get along without him because that is how God wired him
- iv. Woman was deceived not man (I Tim 2:4, Genesis 3) - she is more gullible because a woman lives out of her emotions
 - i. What happens when your husband or father dies and you don't have a head?
 - i. In Esther's case Mordecai (her cousin) took that position
 - ii. Paul tells Timothy to let the children, grandchildren, nephews, to care for a widow (I Timothy 5:4)
 - iii. Paul goes on to tell the widows to get remarried - bear children - take care of the house (I Timothy 5:14) so as not to give the enemy an occasion for reproach. Why?
 - 1. Because women are easily deceived
 - 2. Women have a tendency to gossip and become busybodies (I Timothy 5:13)
 - 3. They tend to run after various things and not stay grounded
 - j. What the head should do for a woman (we will see the man's responsibility later)
 - i. Keep her grounded and fed in the Word of the Lord
 - ii. Provide for her so that she doesn't have the financial burden - because God didn't create her to be the provider
 - iii. Provide advice and discernment in decisions
 - iv. Be a guide and a protector - looking out for her best interests
3. Now for some practical questions of what do I do if . . . Think through these questions if your "head" is causing you issues in the area of submission. What if my husband asks me to do something that goes against the Word of God? Do I still submit? Acts 5:29 tells us that we must obey God rather than men. So let's run through some questions to help discern whether you submit or not.
- a. **Does your husband's request conflict with the Word of God?** Can you give chapter and verse?
 - b. **Is the stronger command of God to obey the husband or to do what the wife feels the Scriptures say she should do?** In some situations there is an issue of the husband not wanting the wife to go to church on Sunday. Does she obey her husband or does she go to church? (Hebrews 10:25; I Peter 2:23)
 - c. **Sometimes a husband has forbid his wife to read the Bible or teach the Bible to their children.** What does the wife do? Here are some verses to look at. (Acts 5:28-29; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 8:3; Ephesians 6:1-4; II Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15)

4. When a woman submits, she needs to remember that it is not to ensure her happiness, it is not to manipulate or change her husband, but it is to obey the commands of God. The reason for submission to her husband is obedience to God.
5. Husbands, you will make the role of your wife so much easier if you focus on becoming the husband that you need to be. We will cover that next week. However, you need to know that this is not easy for a woman, any woman. It makes it even harder when you refuse to lead your home. Remember, you can't force submission, and you will learn that her submission doesn't give you the right to treat her like a servant and disrespect the helpmeet that God gave you. Be the leader, let her come up under your headship, and you will watch your marriage grow into something beautiful!

What does it take to be a man of God? Is it even possible for him to be the head of his home, the provider for his family, a loving husband, and a caring father? Is there time in our busy world to make room for everything? Why not see what God has to say? He is not going to tell you to do something you can't possibly do, so the question becomes, how do you change your life to conform it to what He calls you to do and be?

DAY 1

Just like we needed to go back to the beginning to lay the foundation for a woman, we need to do the same thing for the man. So let's go back and see God's plans for the man that He created in His image.

1. Read through Genesis 1:24-31 in your observation worksheets. This is on OWS 5. When you are finished reading this, answer the following questions.
 - a. What was man's God-given position over the fish, fowl, and living creatures of the earth?

 - b. Was this responsibility given to just the man, or was it given to man and woman? Make sure to include the verses where you get your information.

2. Read Genesis 2:8-25 and I Corinthians 11:3-12 on OWS 7-9 and 11. Again, answer the questions.
 - a. Taking the information from these verses, what does God say is the man's relationship to woman?

- b. From all that we have read, does God intend for the woman to be treated as a subservient person who was created with a lower status? Answer this with Scripture.
3. Now let's go to Genesis 3. You will need to look this up in your Bible. When you are finished reading this chapter then answer the questions.
- a. Who was the first one to disobey?
- b. What did God say was Adam's sin - what did he do wrong? This is specifically stated in these verses.
- c. What was Adam caught between?
- d. After the fall, after they sinned, what did God say was to be the relationship between Adam and Eve (verse 16)?
- e. List the responsibilities that were placed on Adam by God as a result of the fall?
- f. So far, what seems to be the focus of a man's role from this point forward? Why?

DAY 2

1. Today we are going to go back into the Genesis passages once again to look more intently at the words for rule. There are two different words used between Genesis 1 and Genesis 3:16, and it is important to understand the difference between the two. So let's start off the day with some word studies.
 - a. Rule (dominion - KJV) - Genesis 1:26, 28
 - i. Strong's #7287
 - ii. Radhah - to tread down, prevail against, reign, to take possession, to walk on

 - b. Rule - Genesis 3:16
 - i. Strong's #4910
 - ii. Mashal - to rule, have dominion, governor, to manage, reign
 - iii. Indicates the prominence of the sun over the daytime and the moon over the nighttime. Part of Eve's punishment was submission to the appropriate leadership of her husband over the family.

2. Yesterday we looked at Adam and his relationship with Eve before and after the fall. Now the world is plunged into sin and mankind will be plagued with the consequences of sin until Jesus comes to rule and reign on this earth. In the meantime, God has given us His rule book (the Bible) and His Spirit to lead and guide us and to help us walk in the path He wants us to follow. It is not always easy, and many times we will stumble and fall. Isn't it wonderful to know that we have a God who loves us and is patient with us? He gives us His Word so we can learn and grow by the examples laid out before us. Abraham and Sarah's relationship can teach us about a man's role in marriage, so we are going to read their story in Genesis 16:1-5. Before we do, we need to review a little of their background.
 - a. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations in Genesis 12. There were a couple of problems with this. Firstly, he was 75 and Sarah was 65. Secondly, they were childless.

- b. In Genesis 15 God reaffirms the covenant with Abraham, and tells him that this child, who would be the beginning of these many descendants, would come from his own body.
 - c. Now we get to Genesis 16. We are ten years after the events of Genesis 12, and Abraham has a problem. Read Genesis 16:1-5, and answer the following questions.
 - i. What did Sarah (Sarai) suggest to Abraham (Abram) and why?
 - ii. What did Abraham do?
 - iii. Was Abraham right or wrong? Sarah seems to think he was wrong. Was he?
 - iv. If the Lord were to judge between Sarah and Abraham, who do you think would be to blame?
 - v. How does this parallel Adam's sin in Genesis 3?
3. Now if you turn to Genesis 21:1-14, you will read about another confrontation between Abraham and Sarah. What was the problem they were having?
4. How does this situation compare with what we just looked at in Genesis 16 and with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3?

a. Exodus 34:21

b. I Timothy 5:8

c. II Thessalonians 3:7-12

3. Now it is time to reflect on your own life, on the examples that were set for you. We reproduce after our own kind. If our pattern is defective, so is our product. What kind of role model was your own father

a. As a provider? What was his attitude toward earning a living?

b. As a husband? What kind of relationship did your father have with your mother? How did he treat her, respond to her needs, handle their differences, etc.?

9. Who had a greater influence on you, your mother or your father? How? Why?

DAY 4

1. Now that we have established what God has said about the man being the head and the provider of his family, we need to look at the other very important role a man has. We are going back to the passage of Ephesians 5:22-33. Take some time and read through this passage a couple of times. This is located on OWS 17-18. Record any new insights you may have on this passage.

2. Again God tells us that man is to be the head in verse 23, but the rest of the passage gives one other main instruction with supporting ideas and examples about what that means. What is man told to do?

3. Let's do a couple of word studies on this passage before we go any further.
 - a. Love - Ephesians 5:25
 - i. This verb is a present active imperative - present tense tells us that it is to be a continuous or habitual action, active voice which means that it is performed by the subject - the husband, and imperative mood means that this is a command.
 - ii. Strong's #25
 - iii. Agapao - comes from #26 - agape
 - iv. A direction of the will and finding one's joy in something, as God's love toward man and man's love toward God
 - v. Unconditional love that wants only the best for the person
 - vi. It is a love that gives without expecting anything in return
 - vii. It is not a feeling, it is an act of the will
 - viii. When John says that God is love and love comes from God, the word he uses is agape love. This love is God, originates from God, and can only be

accessed through God - so a man's relationship has to be right with God before he can properly love his wife!

b. Nourishes (nourisheth - KJV) - Ephesians 5:29

- i. This is a present active indicative - present active was explained above. Indicative mood is a mood of certainty or reality - it can't help being done.
- ii. Strong's #1625
- iii. Extrepho
- iv. To rear up to maturity
- v. To cherish or train
- vi. To promote the growth of, to furnish or sustain with nutriment, maintain, support

c. Cherishes (cherisheth - KJV) - Ephesians 5:29

- i. This is also a present active indicative
- ii. Strong's #2282
- iii. Thalpo
- iv. To warm, to brood, to foster, to tuck under the wing and protect
- v. To hold dear, feel or show affection for
- vi. To keep or cultivate with care and affection
- vii. To entertain or harbor in the mind deeply and resolutely

7. If you are a man, list at least five ways you can nourish and cherish your wife.

8. If you are a woman, list at least five things your husband could do to nourish and cherish you.

9. Two more passages we want to take a look at, and then we will call it a day.

a. Read Ecclesiastes 9:9

i. Write down what this verse is saying.

ii. If you are loving your wife, what should this be bringing you in your life?

b. This next verse goes against everything that our culture has taught us, so give yourself some time to think about what it says, and ask God what principles you can draw out of this verse. Write out Deuteronomy 24:5 below and then answer the questions.

i. Where is the man not to go or not to do?

ii. For how long?

iii. Why?

iv. Skim the verses that come before this passage, Deuteronomy 24:1-4. What is being talked about? Isn't interesting that this precedes the verse we are looking at? Might there be something to be learned from this?

v. The first year of marriage is vitally important because you are building the foundation for your life together. If the foundation is weak and shaky, it is going to show when the pressures of life start washing up against it. Today we want everything in a hurry. We eat fast or microwaved food because we don't have time to make something. Our lives fly out of control on this roller coaster we call life. Then one day, we marry the love of our life, we take a week long honeymoon (sometimes), and then we strap ourselves back onto that roller coaster and zoom off into life. There is no foundation laid; we will just have to finish it later. We begin to build our life (our house) without ever having finished the foundation. Now life hits us full force - the job, school, children, carpools, church activities. We are too busy building our lives (our houses) and there is no time for working together on that foundation. Now the storms

hit and because there is no foundation to stand against the storms the house begins to crumble - our family falls apart. Think how different life would be if for one year the new couple get to know one another, travel, build common interests, try new things together, with no pressure or time restraints. This couple would bond and meld into a single unit (like the two becoming one). They will become best friends. When the trials come, they can lean on one another. They would become a force to be reckoned with. Now you may be saying, but that just isn't possible. It can't be done. It can't be, or we don't want to go through what it would take to do it?

vi. Let's reason it through for a moment. If we were to do this God's way, how could it possibly work?

1. The Scripture is clear that the man has to support his family; therefore, he would have to have enough money saved to support his family (his new wife and possible child nine months down the road) for that year.
2. Since he has the responsibility to support his family, he has to have his own house to start his family in, be able to pay the bills, have a vehicle to get around, feed, and cloth his new family. This is his physical and financial responsibility not his parents, his spouse's parent's, or the government's.
3. We are talking about a man being settled, ready for the responsibility, well enough off to take the time away from work before he thinks about getting married.
4. What if he can't take a year off of work? He won't have a job to come back to. If we are willing to step out in faith and do something in order to follow God, do we not think God is big enough to ensure that he would have a job to come back to, either where he was working or somewhere else? Is God big enough to work out the little details?
5. Someone might be thinking that this would be terrible. We would sit around the house for a year and have nothing to do. There may be little side jobs that the two can work on together. You can volunteer to help in various places. You can spend time investing your lives into the lives of others. If we follow the principle of the passage, I think what we see is that there is not to be any pressure on the newly married couple. One man who followed this principle had rental units. He had to collect rent once a month and fix things occasionally, but other than that he and his new wife were free to go anywhere they wanted and do what they wanted. Some people can run a business from home that takes an hour or two a day, and it can

-
2. We are going to go back to I Peter 3:7 on OWS 13. We will focus on what is being said about the husband. According to this verse, what is God's command to the husband (make sure you catch them both).
3. If a man is going to live with his wife in an understanding way and not be bitter or harsh toward her, what are some specific things that he would need to take into consideration? How does God's command to love your wife fit into this questions? Remember that she is the weaker vessel. How does that relate to this idea? Think through this carefully and use all the Scriptures you have looked at to form your answer. Write out your thoughts.
4. Record any information on "The Role of a Man" chart.

5. Ephesians 5:25 says that a man is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He is to nourish her and cherish her. Why? Is he to do this just because a woman needs it? While it is true that she does need to be loved, nourished, and cherished there is a reason much higher than that. It is because the married man is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church. A husband becomes a picture of Jesus to the world. Christian men are the only Bible some people will ever read. By their character and life-style, they either show or mar the character and work of Jesus Christ. The husband is to be to the wife as Christ is to the church. Since the head of the woman is the man (I Corinthians 11:3), he is to carry out the responsibilities of his headship in love.

a. To whom is the woman to submit?

b. Why?

c. Read I Corinthians 11:3. Who is the head of every man?

d. To whom must the man submit?

e. If the wife doesn't submit to her husband, is he responsible to make her submit, or is he simply to continue to rule? Write a reason for your answer.

f. If a man doesn't submit to Christ's rule, is Christ responsible to make that man submit? Will He force him to submit?

g. If a man doesn't submit to God, what kind of an example of submission do you think he sets for his wife?

h. Why do you think that many men have abdicated their responsibilities as a husband and as a father? Will their excuses hold when they stand before the Lord?

6. What is a woman to do if her husband doesn't submit to God?

7. As a man and/or as a husband, what specific things has God shown you this week?

8. As a woman and/or a wife, what specific things has God shown you that you can do to properly honor men or to assist your husband in fulfilling his role?

The Role of a Man

Character and Attitudes	Responsibilities as a Husband	Responsibilities as a Provider	Responsibilities as a Father

Role models are people that you look up to and try to emulate. When there is no good role model in your life for a model husband or a model wife, where do you turn? Where else but to the Word of God. Paul tells people to follow his example when it comes to following Christ (I Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:16-17).

We need role models in our life to show us the way to practically live out the role of husband and wife. They are the ones that will demonstrate to us the reality of the power of Christ that allows us to do as He has commanded us to do. Let's look to the Lord and see what He wants from our lives, and then learn how to practically live that out in our everyday lives.

There are two sections in the lesson, so it will not be split into days like normal lessons usually are. There is a section on the model man, and there is a section on the model woman. My suggestion to you is this. If you are a man, spend three days reading the Scriptures, and working to practically apply them to your life and spend the other two days looking over the woman's section. If you are a woman, spend three days on the model woman and the rest of the time looking over the model man.

You should be striving to make your life line up with the principles that God sets forth for your gender. If you are not married, you now have a list of what you should be looking for in your spouse. If you are a husband, you are told to live with your wife in an understanding way and to nourish and cherish her. You are to be encouraging her to be the woman that God created her to be. If you are a wife, you are to be the helpmeet to your husband and working with him to help him become the man that the Lord wants him to be. It is important to understand both sides of this teaching.

Just in case you get through these characteristics and say they are impossible to live by, let me ask you a question. Would God ask you to do something that He did not equip you to do? Of course not; however, there may be a lot of attitude adjustments that we may have to go through in order to line our lives up with the truths of God's Word.

Give these assignments the time they deserve, and examine your life in light of what you learn. Allow God to work in you, to help you become the man or woman that God wants you to be. Remember, we live in a world which has watered this down and called it old-fashioned, out-dated nonsense. A woman who stays at home and cares for the needs of her family is lazy, uneducated, unfilled, or just plain stupid. If your quiver is full of children, you are contributing to the demise of the world because this world is already overpopulated. People look at families with eight or ten children as though they are criminals. We are going to see what God has to say about these mindsets. They certainly haven't come from Him. We

need to allow God's Word to change how we think. Allow Him to break through the world's lies.

One last thing before we dig in. You have no right to take what you are going to learn and beat your spouse over the head with this. You have one person to be concerned about and that is you! It is not your job to make your spouse conform to God's Word. Your responsibility is to make sure that your life conforms to the Word of God and give God the space He needs to deal with your spouse. If you bring your life under complete submission to the will of God, it won't matter so much to you what your spouse does because you will be plenty busy caring for your life.

THE MODEL WOMAN

Most women are familiar with the Proverbial woman of Proverbs 31. I know many women who would like to tear that chapter out of their Bibles! "There is no way to live up to that woman!" they say in disgust. Is that really true? Would God hold this before women just to taunt them? If these are the characteristics of a virtuous woman, are women doomed to never become virtuous? I don't believe we serve a God like that! He loves us and wants the best for our lives. Here is the best. So instead of looking at this passage and saying it is impossible, let's view this as possible, so what do I need to change in my life?

Men, most of you have ignored this passage because it has nothing to do with you. I strongly disagree. If you are not married, this woman is what you want to start looking for. This is a woman that will support you, stand behind you, and be the helpmeet that God created her to be. Don't settle for less! If you are married, men, don't take this list home and use it as a check list and then hand it to your wife and show her all the areas in which she is lacking. Appreciate the areas in which your wife does excel, and take it on yourself to ask, "How can I help her to become complete in other areas?" Maybe there are areas she can't succeed in because you are not being the man that you are supposed to be. Use this list as a way to encourage, love, and appreciate your wife. Watch your wife respond (because she is a responder) with a little encouragement from you!

1. Read Proverbs 31:10-31. Read it straight through without taking time to mark anything or look in depth at anything. You will find these verses on OWS pages 21-22.

2. You are going to read through it again and try to mark it as you would normally mark an observation worksheet; however, this is not a normal passage. The type of writing this is makes observation a little more difficult. You may want to number attributes instead of marking key words. See if there are categories of responsibility like food, home, clothing, work outside the home, etc. Take your time and examine it carefully.
3. Put all this information on the Role of a Woman chart on page 20 of Lesson 2.
4. Now for a little application. We are again going to separate this application assignment for men and woman. Men, read the woman's application part, but don't answer the questions. Women, read over the man's part.
 - a. Woman (even if you aren't a wife, these apply to you as well!)
 - i. If you feel you have failed, remember that God is a loving God, and He forgives sin. He is a God of hope and not a God of condemnation. Now that you know the truth, start today, make changes in your life and move forward. We can't change the past, but we can change the way we live from this day forward.
 - ii. I will give you space after this section to write out the areas that you need to improve. As you list these areas, list practical steps that you are going to take to improve each area of your life. Then take this list to God in prayer. Ask for His help. Ask Him to change your attitudes where they need to be changed. Pray that He will give you His heart in these matters, and that He will help you to deal with the world's pull that calls you to be something different than He designed you to be. Pour your heart out to Him, and be open to hear what He wants you to do.

Biblical Principles of
Marriage and Family
Lesson 5 - Model Man/Woman

Areas I Need to Develop	My Plans To Do So

b. Men

- i. If you are a husband, go over this list and find the areas that your wife excels even if there is only one! Take the time to acknowledge her in this area. Compliment her. Tell her you appreciate how she fulfills her role in this way. Most areas of a woman's life tend to be mundane, routine. There is little acknowledgment for what she has done. Change that, NOW!
- ii. Start complimenting her on areas of her character and her attitude. Given a little praise, she will be encouraged to excel still more. If you are not praising her, why should she even try. You hold the keys to how your wife responds.
- iii. When was the last time you
 1. Complimented her on the way she keeps the house?
 2. Thanked her for washing your clothes?
 3. Told her that the meal was good?
 4. Praised her for how she handled the children?
 5. Brought her something home for no special reason?
 6. Walked up to her and wrapped your arms around her and told her how happy you are that she is your wife?
 7. Wrote a little note to her and left it somewhere that she would find it?
 8. Planned a surprise for her?
 9. Made a fuss over
 - a. Birthdays?
 - b. Anniversaries?
 - c. Mother's Day?
 10. Made her feel special in some way?
- iv. Your wife needs to feel loved, nourished, and cherished. If you do that for her she will be yours forever. If you don't, she will be quick to respond to someone who does. God hasn't given you a choice. He has commanded you to love your wife, to nourish her and to cherish her as Christ loves the church. If you don't you will not only find your wife drifting away from you, you are walking in disobedience to God!

THE MODEL MAN

God has commanded man to do only a couple of things in regards to his wife. He is to be the head (take the leadership position), love his wife (nourish and cherish her, understand her, treat her with honor as a fellow heir), and to provide for his family. That is a lot for a man, a husband to do.

However, just as Proverbs shows the characteristics of a woman of virtue, there are a couple of passages that show us the characteristics of a man of virtue. This is a man who has so excelled in every aspect of his life that he has met the qualifications of an elder or deacon of the church. So here is our pattern of a man who is striving to be all that God wants him to be.

These passages are going to come from the book of I Timothy and Titus. As you read them, discover all you can about this godly man. Sometimes the characteristic may be given in the negative, so you can learn not only what he is supposed to do but what he is not supposed to do.

I am going to give you plenty of space to write down all the characteristics you observe. It may be necessary to look some of the words up in your word study tools or even a common dictionary. Write enough of a definition with each word that you would be able to explain to someone else what that word means. Wade through these passages carefully, and don't miss any of the wonderful truths that God has for you.

1. Read through I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-16; Titus 2:1-2, 6-8; Titus 3:1-2, 8-11. Sometimes an attribute might be repeated, if so, you don't have to record it twice.

Biblical Principles of
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2. Record any pertinent information on the chart "Role of a Man" on page 48 from last week.
3. Now it is time to apply what you have learned. Knowledge only puffs up. We need to apply knowledge and allow it to become wisdom in our lives. Take the time to fill in the chart if you are a man. Now is the time to examine your own life, see how it measures up to the word of God, and actively pursue changes in the areas that need to be changed.

Areas I need to Develop	My Plans To Do So

4. Ladies, this is for you. Yes, that's right, you have an assignment in the men's pages. Here are some practical things that you can do to encourage your husband.
- a. For the married woman - Pray for him in all these areas. The men have been given an incredible responsibility to shoulder. Pray for strength and wisdom to walk in the way that God has placed before them. Examine your own attitudes and behaviors!
 - i. Have you realized how important it is for the man to succeed in providing for his family?
 - ii. How does that apply to your life?
 - iii. Do you put extra pressure on him by complaining about the time that he spends at work? Maybe he would prefer not to come home to a wife who is complaining. Make your home a happy place to be, where he wants to spend time because within its walls he is praised, thanked, appreciated, admired, and unchallenged.
 - iv. Do you constantly talk about things that you would like to have or wish you had? Do you compare what you have to what others have? This may cause your husband to work harder, keeping him away from you and the children. Are those possessions worth the loss of your family? Do you want a husband and father to enjoy, or do you want things?

- v. Do you make it easy for your husband to love you by being a submissive wife who respects her husband? Do you always or frequently challenge his decisions? Compliment your husband on the decisions that he makes and the way he handles matters. Trust God to keep him in line and straighten him out; that is not your job! Christ is his head not you. Men have been created by God to be men and to lead. List the areas where you attempt to dominate him.
- vi. Do you respect and admire your husband? Do you degrade him before other people . . . ever? Do you focus on his good points or his bad ones? If you want to belittle your husband in front of others or in private, don't be surprised when he looks for someone else who shows him some respect. List the positive points about your husband on which you can focus.
- vii. How often do you admire, compliment, or praise your husband? About what do you compliment or praise him? If you don't, there is no time like the present to start. Look at what you listed in the question above, and start praising him like you should. Remember I Corinthians 11? The woman is to be the glory of the man. Shine all over him, ladies!

viii. Are you a feminine woman? Do you look, act, smell feminine? Or are you wearing dingy sweats with your hair in curlers when your husband gets to see you? Isn't it amazing how we will get dressed up and look our best for the world to see us, but could care less how we look for our husbands?

ix. Do you give you husband an opportunity to cherish you?

x. Do you remember that you were created for his sake? You should be seeking to do all you can do to be his counterpart, his completer.

xi. Do you do anything special for him to let him know that he is loved? Writing little love notes, admiring him for what he has done, complimenting him on the way he looks, telling him how thankful you are for all he has done?

xii. Are you sweet? Lovable? Are you nice to be around or do you nag, nag, nag? Are you always complaining about what needs to be done, what he hasn't done? Are you quick to point out all the areas that he has failed?

- b. If you are an unmarried woman, you are still to be under a head. You may possibly be employed by a man, or work with a man. How do you measure up as a godly woman? Whether you are married or not, you were still made for the sake of the man. How can you apply this to your life?

How many books are on the market today that deal with communication? Communication is the key to any and every relationship. Good communication skills will lead to a good relationship. Bad communication skills will cause relationships to fall apart. Communication takes effort and commitment. It is possible to have good communication at the beginning of a relationship only to have it deteriorate over time. It is not something that you can take for granted. It needs to be nurtured and culminated throughout the relationship. This takes time, and unfortunately we all tend to get easily distracted with other things which robs us of the precious time needed to communicate with those around us.

Communication is more than a constant complaining about all the woes in your life. It is an exchange of ideas, opinions, thoughts, and feelings. And communication is not only what you say, it is what you don't say, as well as how you say it.

When we communicate with a spouse, a child, a parent, a sibling, a friend, a coworker, or an acquaintance both the speaker and listener communicate through certain filters on their lives. Filters will allow certain things to pass through while keeping other things out. It can cause us to "hear" things that are not said or say things in a manner in which we did not intend. These filters will influence what we hear and what we say. Some of these filters we cannot help, and some we need to deal with. Here is a partial list of things that will effect our communication with others.

1. Sex - we already discussed how men and women think differently
2. Personality types - will greatly influence how you talk and listen
3. Your past history - hurts, upbringing, tragedy
4. Your talents and gifts
5. Your character
6. Conflicts in your own life
7. Your flesh - is that sinful side of you being overcome by the Spirit?

Specialists in communication have estimated that only 8% of our communication is verbal, 35% is emotional, 55% is body language, and 2% is intuitive. Looking at those statistics means that we need to control that 8% that comes out of our mouths and control that 90% that takes place in our hearts and our minds. And, by the way, if we can control the 90% that goes on inside of us that shows on the outside, we will also then have better control over what comes out of our mouths.

Since this is such a trouble area in our lives, it should not be surprising that God's Word has much to say about it. It will deal not only with our words but the source behind those words. Study well, for James tells us that if a man can master his tongue, he can control his whole body. We will see just how true that is!

DAY 1

Today we are going to look at two enlightening passages that will help us to understand the problem that we have with communication. If we ever hope to control this part of our relationships, we need to know where the problem comes from and how to combat it. Read and study well. This is a very important aspect of our lives!

1. Do your observations on James 3:1-12. Remember that there are instructions on how to do your observations on OWS pages 1-3. You will find the James passage printed out on OWS 23-24.
2. What can you learn from these verses to help you understand how to bridle your tongue?
3. Now we are going to move onto Matthew 12:33-37. How does this passage compare to or help you better understand James 3?
4. We are going to read one more passage for today. Turn to James 1:26. Read this passage and record what you learn about your tongue and your life.
5. What have you learned about yourself and your speech today?

DAY 2

"The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, but a broken spirit who can bear?" - Proverbs 18:14

It is amazing how during the dating process kind and adoring words are shared, but somewhere in those first couple of years of marriage they have seemed to all but disappeared. What takes their place are spiteful hurtful words that begin to poison the relationship. Why? Have pressures of life, irritations of the day, or disappointments of how your life is turning out suffocated those once thoughtful words?

Those sweet words that you used before were choice words. Words that you thought about and used consciously to build your relationship. Now that that relationship is yours, there is no need to keep building it right? WRONG! Now that you have a family relationship where husband and wife begin a new home and a new family, those words of love are going to be used to build the home and the family. If you don't use those words of love you will tear it down - spouse, children, and anyone else who gets in your way.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue . . ." - Proverbs 18:21

Your words hold the key to your relationships. You can restore sweet communication into a floundering relationship. It is your CHOICE of words. It may not be easy, but it can be done. It is going to take conscious effort on your part to change. You do have control over your words! When hurtful things come out of your mouth, it is just a reflection of what is going on in your heart as we saw yesterday.

The world we live in is tough! Pressures at work, students at school, your own family members can all throw ego-damaging, nerve-fraying, aggravating words in your direction. At some point in time, your mind is going to scream that it can't take any more. The outside world can be cold and cruel, we hope that we can at least find some peace and comfort in our own homes only to walk into the front doors and be attacked from the inside as well.

We can't do anything about the outside world, but let's work to at least make our homes a place of peace and a refuge from the turmoil of the world. Let's let our homes be a place of comforting, uplifting words. The only way we can do that is to allow God to instruct us and our words. Allow God's Word to correct your heart, because out of what is in your heart, will your mouth speak.

1. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about the power of the tongue and about the thoughts of the heart that drive it.

a. Proverbs 15:28

b. Proverbs 19:11

c. Proverbs 19:13

d. Proverbs 21:9

e. Proverbs 17:27-28

f. Proverbs 18:14-19

g. Proverbs 27:15

h. Psalms 34:13-14

i. Proverbs 4:24

j. Proverbs 14:3

k. Proverbs 11:11

l. Proverbs 12:18

m. Proverbs 18:21

n. Job 16:5

o. Proverbs 17:9

p. Proverbs 10:32

q. Proverbs 16:21, 23-24

2. Now that you have looked at all those Scriptures, where have you failed to communicate correctly? If you have failed, have you also been guilty of wounding someone's spirit? A person's spirit is wounded when you say something to him which has remained with him and has hurt him. Pray about this. Is there someone that you need to apologize to? It may be hard. You may think that it is an old wound, but a wound never healed is a festering wound. It needs to be opened up so that infection can be dealt with and the wound can heal.

3. Seek an opportunity to talk to those in your immediate family alone - spouse, children - or if you are not married your parents, friends, coworkers - ask them if there is anything that you have said to them that has hurt them. If so, apologize (don't make excuses - because there are none), seek their forgiveness, heal the relationship, and move on.

4. Write down Proverbs 16:24 in the space below. Memorize this passage, and make a conscious effort to watch your words. Speak to build people up, not to tear them down. Make an effort to do this for one week. See if it doesn't make a difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. After one week, try it for two. Then make it a habit of your life!

5. One last thing to think on before we call it a day. Back in #3, I made the comment of apologize and don't make excuses. We need to realize one thing in our lives. There is no excuse when we hurt someone with our words. It matters not what they have said or done, that never gives us the right to retaliate. Our wrong words, is our sin alone. It was not brought on by anything other than our flesh seeking revenge, wanting to hurt someone who hurt us. There is nothing worse than having someone apologize to you and then have them turn the blame back on you. That is a sign of an unrepentant heart! A repentant heart acknowledges its weaknesses, mourns over the hurt that it has caused, and seeks to change in the future!

DAY 3 AND DAY 4

1. In every relationship, especially marriage, there will be points of disagreement. That is entirely normal. The issue becomes how to discuss these points of disagreement without losing control of our tongue and saying something we will be sorry for. The Bible speaks to this issue as well. Let's read these passages and see what we can learn from them. Some may be repeats, but they certainly bear repeating! Read over these verses one day and the next day go to step two.

a. Proverbs 18:13-14

b. Proverbs 18:19

c. Proverbs 24:29

d. Proverbs 13:10

e. Proverbs 15:1-4

f. Proverbs 15:28

g. Proverbs 15:32

h. Proverbs 18:21

i. I Peter 2:21-23 (Ever have someone totally misunderstand you?)

j. Ephesians 4:29-31

k. Ephesians 4:26

l. I Peter 3:8-10

m. Colossians 4:6

n. Psalms 141:3

o. Proverbs 31:26

p. James 1:19-20

2. Now look through these verses and compose a list of rules to live by when speaking or communicating to your spouse, your children, or to other people. Post these on your refrigerator, your visor in the car, your bathroom mirror, wherever they are going to be a constant reminder to you. What matters is that you begin to live by them today!

3. If you are married and taking this course together, make an agreement with each other that from this day forward, you are going to apply these principles to your life and to your communication. Also, set aside some time each day to sit and talk - communicate - about your life, your struggles, and your desire to make your marriage what God wants it to be.

DAY 5

Over the last several days, we have looked to see what the Bible had to say about how we communicate to others. Today we are going to look at some practical things of how to live some of this out in our lives.

In most marriages you see the wife as being labeled "the talker" and the husband as "the silent one." That might seem like it should work until the wife says to the husband, "Talk to me," and he says, "What do you want me to say?" Now the trouble starts. One day these two people realize that they don't have anything to say. Somewhere the communication skills have gotten a little rusty. Let's look at some basic communication skills and see how you measure up in each area.

1. Eye contact is vital! - Someone had said that their eyes are the windows to the soul. When you talk to anyone, especially someone you love, it is important to look them directly in the eye. If you are a dad, this will exude strength and security. If you are a mom, it conveys concern or warmth. If you are a child, it shows respect and confidence.

Medical science has shown that as soon as a child's eyes focus, he searches for another set of eyes. His emotions are fed by the eyes of another. Mean looks, angry frowns, silent glares distress the infant greatly and will cause him to squirm and look away. Warm loving smiles and sweet talk cause his little body to get all excited and his mouth begins to attempt communication through "coos."

- a. If someone talks to you, look directly into his eyes. Ask God to allow His love to flow through you, that they might see Him in your eyes. Again, what is in your heart is going to flow from your mouth and your eyes. Make sure your heart is right with God and this will show to those you communicate with.

- b. If you are married, learn to flirt with your mate (but only your mate) - Wink, smile, light up when you look at him or her. In a crowd hold eye contact with him or her until they look back. Hold that gaze for a moment. This will communicate to all around that you are both spoken for.

2. Give your full attention when someone is talking to you! - Listening while reading a paper, watching television, working on computer, or doing anything else that would divide your attention is not listening. It is not very reassuring to just lend an ear while someone you love is talking to you. Sometimes the one talking will simply shrug and walk away since what you were doing is obviously more important than they are. Communication is the key to the rest of your relationship. Communicate well, and physical expression will flow out from it. There will be a love that flows. Bad communication will lead to you not wanting to be around each other.
 - a. Ask God to give you a time when you and your mate can talk. Be sure it is a time that is appropriate for both of you. If you are not married, you can apply these principles to anyone with whom you wish to communicate.
 - b. When the time comes, ask him or her a question concerning something about which he or she is interested, then listen. Focus your eyes on him or her. Lean forward to listen. Don't disagree. Don't give advice. Rather sit and be an eager listener. Ask appropriate questions. Beware of your facial expressions. Communicate your admiration for this person through your listening. If this is something that you have not practiced, be aware that conversation may be slow in coming. Give it time, but don't ever give up. Many people are concerned about sharing because they are afraid of being laughed at, ridiculed, or rejected. Be open and patient.
 - c. Make a special effort these next few months to give time to listening. It shows others that they are important. This will make them want to share even more.
 - d. Try taking a walk with your mate once or twice a week. Hold hands. Just be there. It will be great for your health.

3. Respond! - When someone talks to you, show him that you consider his statement worthy of acknowledgement. Conversation - communication - is like having a "catch" with a ball. You can't have a catch when someone catches the ball and just holds it. They have to throw it back.

4. Keep a confidence! - Nothing will cut off communication quicker than a leak in confidence. The wall of trust that should surround the family relationship or a friendship cannot be broken or cracked if you hope to succeed in communicating.

5. Avoid pat answers! Don't be too quick to give advice. Many times we are ready to give our opinion and move on. Take the time to listen to all that the person wants to say. Allow others to share all that is on their heart. If you jump in with advice, you are shutting down communication. Many times the person may not need advice, just a listening ear, a sounding board off of which to bounce their ideas. While listening, ask God to show you if advice is needed.
6. Now let's evaluate where you stand on your ability to communicate. Rate yourself on a scale of one to five. One is fair and five is excellent.
- a. Do I make eye contact? _____
 - b. Do I ask good questions? _____
 - c. Do I give my full attention? _____
 - d. Do I respond when spoken to? _____
 - e. Do I maintain confidentiality? _____
 - f. Do I give advice too quickly? _____

How did you do? Do you need to brush up? Ask God to give you an opportunity to start today in your home and in your life.

One last thing for those of you who are married. Never, ever communicate about divorce or separation. This is something that is never to be considered. It is not a matter for discussion! You made your commitment, a vow of your lips never to be broken; therefore, if the subject should ever be brought up, you must refuse, in love, to discuss it. Do not throw the ball back. Simply state the fact of your commitment which is one that will be severed only by death.

Love! There is probably no word in the English language that has been more used and abused than love. We have so perverted the meaning of this word that all meaning is lost. We love God; we love our spouse; we love our car, hotdogs, and Fido, our little pet dog. Are all these feelings love? Are they love to the same degree?

In the marriage ceremony we promise to love, honor, and cherish until death do us part. But those words are being changed to "as long as we both shall love." How long exactly is that? What changes? Why do two people who talked about nothing other than their love for one another, suddenly find that they are not in love anymore and file for divorce?

Could it be that we don't understand what love is? Are we confusing feelings with actions? Since the Bible says that God is love, doesn't it make sense to go back to God's Word, the Bible, and see what He has to say about the subject? Let's spend this week getting God's perspective on what love truly means and how that should express itself in our relationships.

DAY 1

I can't think of any better way to start this lesson than examining the four Greek words for love. By understanding their meaning, their source, and their expression it will help us wade through this difficult and complex topic.

1. Storge

- a. Basis of this love is in our nature - born with the ability to love
- b. Natural affection, that feeling you get when you see something cute and helpless
- c. Can be shown in the love toward a husband, wife, baby, puppy
- d. In the New Testament this love is mentioned with the prefix "a" which negates the word showing someone without love, unloving (II Timothy 3:3)

2. Eros

- a. Erotic, overmastering passion that seizes and absorbs the mind
- b. Emotion based on body chemistry
- c. A love that is based in self-satisfaction
 - i. Although directed at another person it has only self in mind - "I love you because you make me happy, make me feel good"

- ii. Foundation is that some characteristic in the other person pleases you - if that characteristic ceases to exist, the reason for the love would cease to exist
- iii. Looks for what it can receive
- iv. It gives in order to receive - if it fails to get what it wants or expects, bitterness or resentment could develop
- d. It is a conditional love
- e. Never used in the New Testament
- f. It is a good love to have in the marriage relationship; however, on its own the relationship will crumble

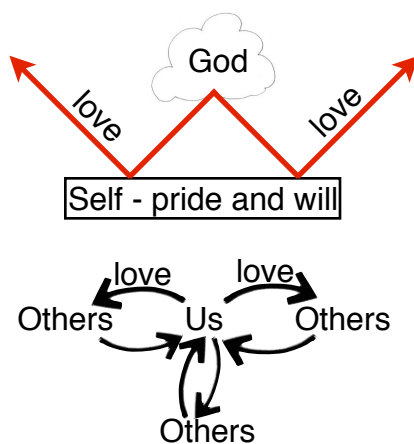
3. Phileo

- a. Companionable love, shows affection, fondness, or liking
- b. Responds to kindness, appreciation, or love
- c. It gives as well as receives, but when strained, it can collapse in crisis
- d. Can be taught (Titus 2:4)
- e. The person needs to be willing to be taught!

4. Agape (agapao)

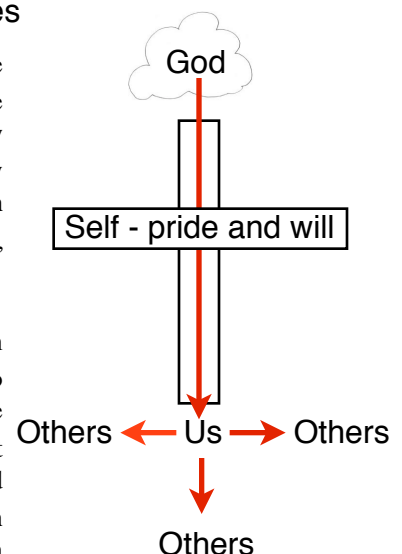
- a. Act of the will
- b. Not kindled by the merit or worth of the person loved
- c. Originates in God's nature for God is agape (love)
- d. Delights in giving and keeps on giving when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy
- e. Unconditional love
- f. Desires only the good of the one loved, consuming passion for the well-being of others

Let me show you a little sketch that might help you see and understand the difference in our lives when we are filled with agape love versus the other loves



The picture to the left shows God's agape love flowing down to us; however, self gets in the way and won't allow God's agape love to flow through us. So in all our relationships the only love we have to share with others is a selfish love that demands something in return - storge, eros, and phileo.

To the right, God's agape love can flow down to us and through us because we have died to self - nailing it to the cross. Now God's agape love can flow through us to others without demanding something in return. We can add the other loves to the agape which will enrich our relationships because they are not based on gratifying self.



Now let's take a look at some passages that explain what agape love is. As you read the following references, fill in the chart. You may not be able to fill in every column for every verse, but I wanted you to really evaluate each verse. Remember, this is a love that can only come from God. An unbeliever cannot have this type of love, and it should be the very essence of who we are as Christians, because I John tells us that they will know we are Christians by our agape. If you don't have this love in you, then again I John 4:7-8 tells us that God is not in you.

Reference	<u>Love's Source</u> Where does the love come from?	<u>Love's Object</u> To whom is this love shown?	<u>Love's Behavior</u> What does this love do?	<u>Love's Extent</u> How great or how far does it reach?
John 3:16				
I John 4:7-21				
Romans 5:5				
Romans 5:8				
Galatians 5:22				
John 16:27				

Biblical Principles of
Marriage and Family
Lesson 7 - Love

Reference	<u>Love's Source</u> Where does the love come from?	<u>Love's Object</u> To whom is this love shown?	<u>Love's Behavior</u> What does this love do?	<u>Love's Extent</u> How great or how far does it reach?
Hebrews 12:6				
John 13:34				
John 14:15				
John 15:9				
John 15:13				
Romans 13:8-10				
I Peter 4:8				

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Ephesians 5:25				
Ephesians 4:2				
Ephesians 5:2				
I Thess 3:12				
I Thess 4:9-10				
Colossians 3:14				

DAY 2

1. We are going to take a look at I Corinthians 13. Many people refer to this as the love chapter. Read through I Corinthians 13:4-8 and fill in the chart below. Think through each characteristic and give a definition for it. Look up the words in your word study tools or a dictionary if necessary. The first one is done for you, so you get the idea.

verse	Love is . . .	Explanation
4	patient	slow to lose one's temper with irritating people or situations
4		
4		
4		
4		
5		
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5		
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7		
8		

2. Look back over all that you have learned about love. Now write a definition of the agape love we should be showing to our spouse (if you are married) or your friends (if you are single), because as Christians, we should all be expressing this agape love to one another. Also take the time to think through how you should express this love through your actions.

3. Is it even possible to have this type of love in your marriage relationship or in your friendships? Write out the reasons for your answer.

4. Now that you have seen God's standard for love, take some time to evaluate how you measure up to this standard. If you fall short, confess that to the Lord, ask His forgiveness, and move on. Satan wants you to live with the guilt of falling short because that way he can keep you focused on self as you wallow in self-pity. If you have come before the Lord and confessed your sins, then leave them at the foot of the cross and move on. When you have confessed and repented of your sins, you are free from the guilt of those sins; however, that is not to say that you are free from the consequences of your sin. Don't let guilt fester in your life because it will destroy you.

- a. Spend some time in a quiet place.
- b. List the names of your spouse, the rest of your family, your friends.

- c. Take this list to God, and ask Him to show you how to love these people. Each love has its proper place, but no love is complete without that agape love.
- d. Search your heart. Seek the answer to the following questions. Ask God to reveal these things to you.
 - i. Why don't you love some of these people the way you should?
 - ii. Is there a love that you are feeling that is wrong?
 - iii. Is there someone on this list that you just can't love? If so, ask God to show you what is blocking His love from flowing through you.
 - iv. Do you need to ask forgiveness from someone, or do they need to be forgiven by you? Be honest with God and allow Him to be honest with you. It may be painful, but until these hurts are dealt with, healing can't begin.

DAY 3

It is impossible for God's love to be passive. It has to act! God loved us at all costs (even the cost of His Son). You saw through the Scriptures you studied that God's love is a love that initiates. We love Him because He first loved us, and He expressed that love in a selfless, sacrificial way!

Once a woman in counseling said that her husband didn't tell her that he loved her anymore. The husband mumbled back, "I told you I loved you when I married you, didn't I? If I had changed my mind, I would have let you know." This may seem comical, but it is very sad and, unfortunately, very realistic. It is this muteness of feelings that often kills a relationship. Love has to be expressed!

Therefore, we need to take a look at how love can be expressed. How do we show someone that we love them. We all need to feel loved, cherished, and special. So whether you are married or single, let's take a look at some ways to express our love to others. Keep in mind that while we are talking about a marriage relationship specifically, these things can be applied to friendships and other family members.

1. Meaningful rituals are important. The hello and goodbye kisses, celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries, the sharing of "our song" all serve to make a relationship special. What rituals do you have in your marriage? In your family? Write them out below. Are there things you used to do that were special, but somewhere along the way you stopped? Why not make an effort to start them again?

a. Rituals that I have or would like to start with my spouse:

b. Rituals that I have or would like to start with my family or friends:

2. Giving gifts can open the door to someone's heart. Your gift doesn't have to be lavish, but it needs to reflect that you know what your loved one likes. Some precautions have to be used when giving gifts. You always want to make sure that you are giving out of your heart, out of your love, and not looking for what you can get in return!

a. Look up Proverbs 18:16 and 21:14 and write what you learn about giving gifts from these verses.

3. When giving a gift to someone, keep the following things in mind:

a. Will it mean something special to the one I love?

b. Am I giving the gift with my loved one in mind and not me?

c. Will it express my love in a way that he or she will understand? Is it in the language of love they will understand. (More on that will be discussed later.)

4. Take some time to think about how you can incorporate these things into your life from this point forward. How are you going to "love" in meaningful ways the people in your life?

The Language of Love

Love needs to be expressed if it is to be understood. When you want to convey a message to a person, you need to speak to them in terms that they understand. For example, if you want to talk to a child, you need to get down to their level, look them in the eye, and talk in words that they can understand. The same holds true when you want to express your love to another person, especially your mate. You need to speak their "love language," so that your love can be understood.

This is why there have been times, men, when you carefully selected that special can opener, vacuum cleaner, or toaster for you wife's birthday only to see the look of disappointment in her eyes when she unwrapped it. She may have said, "Thank you," but you could tell that she was not thrilled with her gift. You failed to speak her language of love.

Ladies, what about the time when you scrimped and saved every last penny to buy your husband that beautiful sweater you saw at the store. When he opened it, instead of throwing his arms around you and telling you how much he loved you, he asked how much it cost, and informed you that you need to take it back because it costs too much money, and besides that, what he really needs is car tires.

How do you feel when that happens? You thought and you planned only to have the person you love, the person you care about, be disappointed in your gift. Of course, it hurts! It makes you want to give up trying to show your love to that person. Don't quit. Just like learning to speak another language, it takes time and practice, but it is well worth the effort. When you master it, you will be able to communicate freely with others. The same is true in the language of love. It takes time and effort, but it is a small price to pay for the privilege of having the ones you love secure in your love!

Learning to receive the language of love is just as important as learning to speak it. Many marriages have crumbled over misunderstood love signals. Her idea of love is being taken to a nice restaurant. His idea of love is having one of her good home-cooked meals with some friends. On their anniversary, she wanted to go out; he invited some friends to their home for dinner. How are you going to handle the situation? Is the start of a battle? He needs to understand why she was disappointed and make a note of that. She needs to understand that this is the way he expresses his love. He is proud of the home that she has made for them, the food which she prepares, and wants to show her off. To him this is a high compliment to her as a woman. Maybe this was not her language of love, but it was his, and she should receive his gesture as love. Learning to understand your spouse is not easy, but if you are both open and willing to learn, it will come with time and practice. Oh, and don't be surprised when there are a few misunderstood signals along the way. In those times go back to your lesson on communication and work through it. You will both be stronger in the end.

5. If you wanted to show someone that you loved them, how would you do it?

6. If someone is going to express love to you, how would you expect them to do it?

7. How does your mate express love? (If you are not married, how do your friends express love?)

8. Are there differences in how your mate expresses love and how you would like love expressed? What are you going to do about it? Are you going to grumble and complain? Are you going to talk about it? Are you going to learn that this is how your mate expresses their love? Write down some ways that you can bring positive results from this situation, instead of allowing something like this to boil and fester in the lives of all involved.

9. Do something special for your mate to express your love for them. If you are single, then do something special for a friend. Don't make a big deal out of it, just do it quietly and lovingly, and see how they respond.

DAY 4

We saw that the love we need to have for one another, the love that will keep us together no matter what, is agape love. Unconditional love. This kind of love is an act of the will. If this is true, then to some extent we have control over this. We choose to love, and sometimes we choose not to love. It is a matter of the mind. We need to then take a look at love from this angle.

Romance begins in the head, and our heart follows. In any relationship, whether friend, foe, or family, your mindset is vital! When we allow our mind to start focusing on the negative in a person, it turns into a roaring fire, and you watch your love for someone turn into disgust in a matter of days, hours, or minutes. If we allow our minds to choose to dwell on the negative, it doesn't take long to collect lots of firewood from the hidden recesses of our mind to bring that fire to a blaze! The purpose, of course, is obvious. They said something or did something that we did not like, and now we are going to roast them alive!

If we can choose to coax that fire to a roaring blaze, then doesn't it stand to reason that we can also squelch that fire in the same way. The choice is ours. It is a matter of will. Are we willing to submit it to God and put our mind on positive things, or will we surrender to self and stoke the embers so that the fire of our anger can destroy everything in its path - including ourselves and our relationships?

Let's look at some Scripture and see what guidelines God gives us in controlling this mind of ours. Maybe we are just making too big of a deal over this. After all, maybe we can't control what we think and feel. Is that what Scripture teaches? As you read through these passages, you need to remember that heart and mind are used interchangeably.

1. Look up the following Scriptures and record what you learn about the mind or the thought life and how it will affect your attitude toward those you love.

a. Proverbs 4:23

b. Proverbs 23:7

c. Matthew 15:18-19 (Note the progression in this verse and note what comes out of the heart/mind.)

d. Matthew 5:28 (Note the progression again. When does adultery begin?)

e. Job 31:1-11 (What part did the heart play in Job's behavior?)

f. I Corinthians 13:5

2. What are God's thoughts and attitudes toward us? If these are God's thoughts as He agapes us, should our thoughts be any different, any less as we agape others?

a. Jeremiah 29:11

b. Psalm 139:17-18

c. Romans 8:31-39

DAY 5

1. To end this week, we are going to look at a couple of passages that show us how to keep our hearts and our minds under control. We are going to start with II Corinthians 10:3-6. Mark it as you would an observation worksheet, then answer the following questions.

II Corinthians 10:3-6

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

⁶ and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

a. What is happening in our minds?

b. What kind of battle is this?

c. The battle line is drawn between what two things?

d. What are some of the things that we will need to do to win the war with our minds?

2. Now read Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

a. These are to be the standards for our thought life. List the eight things that we are to think on.

b. Use your study tools to look up any of these words that you might be unfamiliar with.

c. Every thought that enters our mind must pass this criteria. This is why Paul tells us to take every thought captive. If it doesn't meet the criteria then it needs to be captured and escorted out of our mind. We are **not allowed** to dwell on it! How are you doing in that area of your life?

d. If we choose to love someone, where would it start?

WE DO HAVE A CHOICE AS TO WHETHER WE WANT TO LOVE!

3. Part of your assignment for the next several weeks is to make a concentrated effort to think pleasing thoughts, good thoughts about your mate or others. Anytime a negative thought comes into your mind, cast it down, and refuse to think about it. Tell God that you want to think pleasing thoughts to Him, and you refuse these negative thoughts. If they still don't go away, then read the Bible or begin to memorize Scripture. Remember, when we take things out of our minds (negative thoughts), we need to replace them with something else (positive, good things - Philippians 4:8 things). If we just try to get rid of the bad and not replace it with anything, we leave a void that Satan will certainly be happy to fill for us. Don't give him that chance!
4. To end this week, let's take a look at where wrong thinking comes from. Wrong thinking is the lust of the flesh that we are called to mortify (put to death). Colossians 3:5-16 gives believers some instructions. As you read through these verses underline the instructions we are given. You will never win the fight for the mind until we can walk in His ways.

Colossians 3:5-16

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

¹¹ *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

This is always a hard subject to deal with because we all come from different backgrounds. When you hear the word sex, how does it strike you? Is it dirty? Beautiful? Cheap? Disgusting? Natural? Special? Something you tolerate? Does it embarrass you when someone brings up the subject? Maybe it doesn't bother you at all.

Our attitude toward this subject usually comes from our culture, upbringing, exposure, and age. The question that we want to deal with this week is whether your attitude toward sex and your sexuality is Biblical. The Bible has much to say on the subject. What is God's perspective? How does He view sex? Is your perspective the same as His? This is a topic that most people stay away from because it makes them uncomfortable.

If Christianity involves my whole life, then my sexuality plays an important part in my Christianity. If we are not willing to see what God has to say on this subject the results can be devastating! Lives are ruined, marriages are falling apart, but we remain uneducated on this topic.

There are increasing sexual problems among Christians. Increasing accounts of adultery, immorality, premarital sex, sexual abuse, tolerated open homosexuality in the church, unwed mothers left to rear children alone, and broken marriages all lay in the wake of this tidal wave that has ripped through the Christian community.

Now, more than ever, we need to know God's heart in this matter. He is the one that created us male and female. There must have been a purpose for it. What does His Word teach about our sexuality and its expression? What limits has God put on it and why?

Learning this and how to apply it to our lives will be the goal for this week. Study well because we are living in a world which has perverted God's creation and has filled our minds and the minds of our children with information far removed from God's Word.

DAY 1 THROUGH DAY 3

1. Let's start at the beginning since this is where God started, and look into the Genesis account for the first mention of sexuality in the Bible. Read Genesis 1:27-28 and Genesis 2:22-25. When you read this, do you think that Adam knew that Eve was different than he was? How do you think he could tell that Eve was not a man? I know this may seem a little silly, but it lays the foundation for our study of human sexuality!

a. What do you think God meant when He said in Genesis 2:24, ". . . they shall become one flesh?" Before answering that question, carefully read I Corinthians 6:15-16.

b. We have studied the creation account and the fall. Thinking back over these lessons answer the following questions.

i. Was the sexual relationship something that was a result of the fall or was it ordained of God as part of His perfect world?

ii. When did the nakedness of the man and the woman become an issue? How was it dealt with and by whom?

iii. Why do you think nakedness was dealt with in this manner?

iv. Who created and designed sex?

v. In light of God's Word what should your attitude toward sex be? If your attitude is different than God's, take that to Him in prayer and ask Him to help you view the sexual relationship from His eyes instead of through the blinders we have been forced to wear by this world!

2. God has distinct guidelines regarding the sexual relationship. Look up the following verses, and record the guidelines that God has given.

a. Exodus 20:14

b. Leviticus 18:6

c. Leviticus 20:11-12, 14, 17-23 (list each act separately)

d. Leviticus 20:10

e. Leviticus 20:13

f. Leviticus 20:15-16 (Why do you think that death was called for in these situations?)

g. Proverbs 5:15-20

h. Hebrews 13:4

i. I Corinthians 7:1-5

3. Let's take a little time to overview what we have been looking at and some words that we have been and will be discussing.

a. We will start with some definitions first.

i. Adultery - sex between a married person and someone other than their spouse.

ii. Fornication

1. Porneia and pornos - the Greek words - the word we get pornography from
2. Implying excessive indulgence, illicit (illegal sexual intercourse - illegal according to God's law)
3. Sexual intercourse between anyone other than a husband and wife - includes adultery

b. Now for a little review. Think of all that we have studied so far on sexuality and its expression. Fill in the chart below.

Proper Place for Sexual Relationship	Purpose and Guideline for the Sexual Relationship	Wrong Expression for the Sexual Relationship and Punishment

4. Now to touch on a topic that is very distasteful to think about much less discuss. Please bear with me because this is very important. If we are going to deal with God's commands and guidelines concerning sexual expression, then we need to deal with the subject of masturbation. This is a very real problem for children, those who are single, as well as those who are married. It effects just as many people in the church (maybe even more so) than the rest of the world. It is even promoted as being a natural, safe sexual expression by Christian psychologists. To not deal with this subject is to leave people in the dark, confused and frustrated, prisoners in the chains of guilt. It is time to break those chains and set people free by exposing them to the truths of God's Word.

Let's start by defining the word. Masturbation is sexual self-excitation. Focus is on self and pleasing self. You can search Scripture from Genesis to Revelation and never find a mention to this word. Since there is no mention of masturbation, then we need to search the Scripture for principles and guidelines that God has given and see if we can draw conclusions.

- a. Look up the following Scriptures noting how a person is to handle their sexual needs.

i. I Corinthians 7:1-2 (the Greek word for "touch" is 7:1 means to light a fire)

ii. I Corinthians 7:8-9 (the Greek word for "burn" is to be ignited, to glow, to be inflamed with anger, greed, lust)

- b. According to I Corinthians 7:1-9, how is a married person to satisfy their sexual needs?

4. II Timothy 2:22 (Could this relate to the act of masturbation? If so, why?)

 5. I Corinthians 6:13-20 (Does this give any guidelines regarding masturbation? What are they?)

 6. Romans 14:22-23 (What does this have to say that could relate to this subject?)

 7. If masturbation is not pleasing to God, how would you handle those desires? Look up Galatians 5:16, 22-25, and record what could help a person to handle these desires.
- c. Part of the definition of masturbation is pleasing self. Let's look at a couple of Scripture references that will touch on what we as Christians are to do with self.
- i. Mark 8:34-35; Luke 9:23-24; Matthew 10:38

 - ii. Galatians 5:24

 - iii. Colossians 3:3-7

 - iv. Romans 7:4-6

v. Romans 8:12-13

vi. John 12:24

vii. Romans 12:1-2

viii. Romans 6:2-4

ix. Galatians 6:14

DAY 4 AND DAY 5

1. Prolonged periods without sexual relations can undermine a marriage. The sexual relationship is a barometer which accurately records the health and well-being of your marriage. Yet more and more both partners seem to hold themselves back from the other partner.

a. According to I Corinthians 7:1-5, what is God's clear teaching regarding withholding yourself from your mate?

b. From all that you have learned in the past couple of days and what you know about the world that we live in, what could be the possible reasons that would cause these prolonged periods without sexual relations between a husband and wife? Give this lots of thought and meditation. Make sure that you don't let this happen to you if you are married. If you are looking at the possibility of marrying in the future, these are things that can help you be prepared for that day. For those who aren't married, giving this considerable thought may help you to advise someone who comes to you for help.

c. In light of all you have learned, how do you think this problem of one partner withholding himself or herself from the other ought to be handled? Be as specific as you can.

d. If you are married, list things that happen which cool your physical desire for sexual relations with your mate. If you are both taking this course, choose a time to discuss this being very careful to remember all that we learned about communication a couple of weeks ago.

e. If you are single, whether divorced, widowed, or never married, write out your resolve before God regarding your sexuality. God will meet you at the altar of sincere commitment and there He will grant you His grace which is sufficient for any and every need.

2. God's guidelines within the confines of marriage are for each partner to satisfy and be satisfied with the other. One of the best places to look for the expression of love within the confines of marriage is in the book of Song of Solomon.

It was said that a young Jewish man was not permitted to read this book until they reached Jewish adulthood. The reason for this? Because this book describes the beauty of an intimate relationship between a bridegroom and his bride. We want to look at this Scripture from the perspective of the physical relationship between the husband and wife - two people who have chosen each other above all the others on earth.

a. Read through the eight chapters of Song of Solomon. These are located on pages 102-108.

b. As you read through the book, look for the following and record it on the chart on page 101.

<p>Physical Expressions of Love</p> <p>example <i>Holding hands kissing</i></p>	
<p>Verbal Expressions of Love</p> <p>example <i>Complimenting encouraging</i></p>	
<p>Things They Shared</p> <p>example <i>Taking a walk eating</i></p>	
<p>Expressions Refused or Thwarted</p> <p>example <i>Times when they refused expressions of love</i></p>	

Song of Solomon - Chapter 1

The Young Shulammite Bride and Jerusalem's Daughters

1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

2 "May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.

3 "Your oils have a pleasing fragrance, Your name is *like* purified oil; Therefore the maidens love you.

4 "Draw me after you *and* let us run *together*! The king has brought me into his chambers."

"We will rejoice in you and be glad; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you."

5 "I am black but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon.

6 "Do not stare at me because I am swarthy, For the sun has burned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; They made me caretaker of the vineyards, *But* I have not taken care of my own vineyard.

7 "Tell me, O you whom my soul loves, Where do you pasture *your flock*, Where do you make *it* lie down at noon? For why should I be like one who veils herself Beside the flocks of your companions?"

Solomon, the Lover, Speaks

8 "If you yourself do not know, Most beautiful among women, Go forth on the trail of the flock And pasture your young goats By the tents of the shepherds.

9 "To me, my darling, you are like My mare among the chariots of Pharaoh.

10 "Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, Your neck with strings of beads."

11 "We will make for you ornaments of gold With beads of silver."

12 "While the king was at his table, My perfume gave forth its fragrance.

13 "My beloved is to me a pouch of myrrh Which lies all night between my breasts.

14 "My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms In the vineyards of Engedi."

15 "How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are *like* doves."

16 "How handsome you are, my beloved, *And* so pleasant! Indeed, our couch is luxuriant!

17 "The beams of our houses are cedars, Our rafters, cypresses.

Song of Solomon - Chapter 2

The Bride's Admiration

1 "I am the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys."

2 "Like a lily among the thorns, So is my darling among the maidens."

3 "Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, So is my beloved among the young men. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, And his fruit was sweet to my taste.

- 4 “He has brought me to *his* banquet hall, And his banner over me is love.
- 5 “Sustain me with raisin cakes, Refresh me with apples, Because I am lovesick.
- 6 “Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me.”
- 7 “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, That you do not arouse or awaken *my* love Until she pleases.”
- 8 “Listen! My beloved! Behold, he is coming, Climbing on the mountains, Leaping on the hills!
- 9 “My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he is standing behind our wall, He is looking through the windows, He is peering through the lattice.
- 10 “My beloved responded and said to me, ‘Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along.
- 11 ‘For behold, the winter is past, The rain is over *and* gone.
- 12 ‘The flowers have *already* appeared in the land; The time has arrived for pruning *the vines*, And the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land.
- 13 ‘The fig tree has ripened its figs, And the vines in blossom have given forth *their* fragrance. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along!’”
- 14 “O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret place of the steep pathway, Let me see your form, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your form is lovely.”
- 15 “Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, While our vineyards are in blossom.”
- 16 “My beloved is mine, and I am his; He pastures *his flock* among the lilies.
- 17 “Until the cool of the day when the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle Or a young stag on the mountains of Bether.”

Song of Solomon - Chapter 3

The Bride’s Troubled Dream

- 1 “On my bed night after night I sought him Whom my soul loves; I sought him but did not find him.
- 2 ‘I must arise now and go about the city; In the streets and in the squares I must seek him whom my soul loves.’ I sought him but did not find him.
- 3 “The watchmen who make the rounds in the city found me, *And I said*, ‘Have you seen him whom my soul loves?’
- 4 “Scarcely had I left them When I found him whom my soul loves; I held on to him and would not let him go Until I had brought him to my mother’s house, And into the room of her who conceived me.”
- 5 “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, That you will not arouse or awaken *my* love Until she pleases.”

Solomon's Wedding Day

6 "What is this coming up from the wilderness Like columns of smoke, Perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, With all scented powders of the merchant?

7 "Behold, it is the *traveling* couch of Solomon; Sixty mighty men around it, Of the mighty men of Israel.

8 "All of them are wielders of the sword, Expert in war; Each man has his sword at his side, *Guarding* against the terrors of the night.

9 "King Solomon has made for himself a sedan chair From the timber of Lebanon.

10 "He made its posts of silver, Its back of gold *And* its seat of purple fabric, *With* its interior lovingly fitted out By the daughters of Jerusalem.

11 "Go forth, O daughters of Zion, And gaze on King Solomon with the crown With which his mother has crowned him On the day of his wedding, And on the day of his gladness of heart."

Song of Solomon - Chapter 4

Solomon's Love Expressed

1 "How beautiful you are, my darling, How beautiful you are! Your eyes are *like* doves behind your veil; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead.

2 "Your teeth are like a flock of *newly* shorn ewes Which have come up from *their* washing, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young.

3 "Your lips are like a scarlet thread, And your mouth is lovely. Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.

4 "Your neck is like the tower of David, Built with rows of stones On which are hung a thousand shields, All the round shields of the mighty men.

5 "Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle Which feed among the lilies.

6 "Until the cool of the day When the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense.

7 "You are altogether beautiful, my darling, And there is no blemish in you.

8 "*Come* with me from Lebanon, *my* bride, May you come with me from Lebanon. Journey down from the summit of Amana, From the summit of Senir and Hermon, From the dens of lions, From the mountains of leopards.

9 "You have made my heart beat faster, my sister, *my* bride; You have made my heart beat faster with a single *glance* of your eyes, With a single strand of your necklace.

10 "How beautiful is your love, my sister, *my* bride! How much better is your love than wine, And the fragrance of your oils Than all *kinds* of spices!

11 "Your lips, *my* bride, drip honey; Honey and milk are under your tongue, And the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

12 "A garden locked is my sister, *my* bride, A rock garden locked, a spring sealed up.

13 "Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates With choice fruits, henna with nard plants,

14 Nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, With all the trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, along with all the finest spices.

15 “*You are* a garden spring, A well of fresh water, And streams *flowing* from Lebanon.”

16 “Awake, O north *wind*, And come, *wind of* the south; Make my garden breathe out *fragrance*, Let its spices be wafted abroad. May my beloved come into his garden And eat its choice fruits!”

Song of Solomon - Chapter 5

The Torment of Separation

1 “I have come into my garden, my sister, *my* bride; I have gathered my myrrh along with my balsam. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. Eat, friends; Drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers.”

2 “I was asleep but my heart was awake. A voice! My beloved was knocking: ‘Open to me, my sister, my darling, My dove, my perfect one! For my head is drenched with dew, My locks with the damp of the night.’

3 “I have taken off my dress, How can I put it on *again*? I have washed my feet, How can I dirty them *again*?

4 “My beloved extended his hand through the opening, And my feelings were aroused for him.

5 “I arose to open to my beloved; And my hands dripped with myrrh, And my fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the bolt.

6 “I opened to my beloved, But my beloved had turned away *and* had gone! My heart went out *to him* as he spoke. I searched for him but I did not find him; I called him but he did not answer me.

7 “The watchmen who make the rounds in the city found me, They struck me *and* wounded me; The guardsmen of the walls took away my shawl from me.

8 “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, As to what you will tell him: For I am lovesick.”

9 “What kind of beloved is your beloved, O most beautiful among women? What kind of beloved is your beloved, That thus you adjure us?”

Admiration by the Bride

10 “My beloved is dazzling and ruddy, Outstanding among ten thousand.

11 “His head is *like* gold, pure gold; His locks are *like* clusters of dates *And* black as a raven.

12 “His eyes are like doves Beside streams of water, Bathed in milk, *And* reposed in *their* setting.

13 “His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of sweet-scented herbs; His lips are lilies Dripping with liquid myrrh.

14 “His hands are rods of gold Set with beryl; His abdomen is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires.

15 “His legs are pillars of alabaster Set on pedestals of pure gold; His appearance is like Lebanon Choice as the cedars.

16 “His mouth is *full of* sweetness. And he is wholly desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”

Song of Solomon - Chapter 6

Mutual Delight in Each Other

1 “Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, That we may seek him with you?”

2 “My beloved has gone down to his garden, To the beds of balsam, To pasture *his flock* in the gardens And gather lilies.

3 “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine, He who pastures *his flock* among the lilies.”

4 “You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my darling, As lovely as Jerusalem, As awesome as an army with banners.

5 “Turn your eyes away from me, For they have confused me; Your hair is like a flock of goats That have descended from Gilead.

6 “Your teeth are like a flock of ewes Which have come up from *their* washing, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young.

7 “Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.

8 “There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, And maidens without number;

9 *But* my dove, my perfect one, is unique: She is her mother’s only *daughter*; She is the pure *child* of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed, The queens and the concubines *also*, and they praised her, *saying*,

10 ‘Who is this that grows like the dawn, As beautiful as the full moon, As pure as the sun, As awesome as an army with banners?’

11 “I went down to the orchard of nut trees To see the blossoms of the valley, To see whether the vine had budded *Or* the pomegranates had bloomed.

12 “Before I was aware, my soul set me *Over* the chariots of my noble people.”

13 “Come back, come back, O Shulammite; Come back, come back, that we may gaze at you!”
“Why should you gaze at the Shulammite, As at the dance of the two companies?”

Song of Solomon - Chapter 7

Admiration by the Bridegroom

1 “How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince’s daughter! The curves of your hips are like jewels, The work of the hands of an artist.

2 “Your navel is *like* a round goblet Which never lacks mixed wine; Your belly is like a heap of wheat Fenced about with lilies.

3 “Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle.

4 “Your neck is like a tower of ivory, Your eyes *like* the pools in Heshbon By the gate of Bath-rabbim; Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, Which faces toward Damascus.

5 “Your head crowns you like Carmel, And the flowing locks of your head are like purple threads; *The* king is captivated by *your* tresses.

6 “How beautiful and how delightful you are, *My* love, with *all* your charms!

7 “Your stature is like a palm tree, And your breasts are *like its* clusters.

8 “I said, ‘I will climb the palm tree, I will take hold of its fruit stalks.’ Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, And the fragrance of your breath like apples,

9 And your mouth like the best wine!” “It goes *down* smoothly for my beloved, Flowing gently *through* the lips of those who fall asleep.

The Union of Love

10 “I am my beloved’s, And his desire is for me.

11 “Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country, Let us spend the night in the villages.

12 “Let us rise early *and go* to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine has budded *And its* blossoms have opened, *And whether* the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.

13 “The mandrakes have given forth fragrance; And over our doors are all choice *fruits*, Both new and old, Which I have saved up for you, my beloved.

Song of Solomon - Chapter 8

The Lovers Speak

1 “Oh that you were like a brother to me Who nursed at my mother’s breasts. *If* I found you outdoors, I would kiss you; No one would despise me, either.

2 “I would lead you *and* bring you Into the house of my mother, who used to instruct me; I would give you spiced wine to drink from the juice of my pomegranates.

3 “Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me.”

4 “I want you to swear, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not arouse or awaken *my* love Until she pleases.”

5 “Who is this coming up from the wilderness Leaning on her beloved?” “Beneath the apple tree I awakened you; There your mother was in labor with you, There she was in labor *and* gave you birth.

6 “Put me like a seal over your heart, Like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, Jealousy is as severe as Sheol; Its flashes are flashes of fire, The *very* flame of the LORD.

7 “Many waters cannot quench love, Nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, It would be utterly despised.”

8 “We have a little sister, And she has no breasts; What shall we do for our sister On the day when she is spoken for?

9 “If she is a wall, We will build on her a battlement of silver; But if she is a door, We will barricade her with planks of cedar.”

10 “I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers; Then I became in his eyes as one who finds peace.

11 “Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; He entrusted the vineyard to caretakers. Each one was to bring a thousand *shekels* of silver for its fruit.

12 “My very own vineyard is at my disposal; The thousand *shekels* are for you, Solomon, And two hundred are for those who take care of its fruit.”

13 “O you who sit in the gardens, *My* companions are listening for your voice— Let me hear it!”

14 “Hurry, my beloved, And be like a gazelle or a young stag On the mountains of spices.”

"The natural outcome of marriage is divorce." What a sad statement to make, but yet how true it is. Today more than one out of two marriages ends in divorce. This is true for Christian marriages as well. What has happened to our world? Why could this thing of marriage, set aside as sacred by God, cause so many problems in our lives today? To answer that, you need to remember back to our first couple of classes together. We talked about why the family unit (the central building block of our society) would be such a focal point for Satan's attacks. When Satan can destroy families, the society will quickly follow. We certainly see evidence of that in our world today.

Whatever happened to the commitment and the permanence in marriage? That will be our topic this week.

We have seen that the marriage relationship was God's idea. How do we know that God says that marriage is permanent? How permanent is permanent? Is it until death do us part or love do us part? Why is permanence in marriage so important to God if it truly is? And what about divorce? Does God condone that in anyway? Why is adultery such a terrible sin?

Are these questions answered in God's Word? We know that society has the answers to all these questions and they would love to tell you all about it, but would their advice be sound? Would it line up with the plum line of God's Word?

Please remain teachable as we go through these next couple of weeks. Let's look into God's Word and see His heart. We will be looking at these questions over the next couple of weeks so reserve your final conclusions and keep on building precept upon precept, line upon line, a little here a little there. Tell God that you want to know and understand His truth. He will reveal truth to those who want to know it, live by it, and share it with others. When we live by God's standards, we will know a satisfaction, a peace, and a joy like we could never imagine.

DAY 1

1. Turn to Genesis 2:21-25 and read it carefully.

a. According to verse 24, when a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife, what do the two become?

b. One is a single unit. Can you divide something that is one unit or one piece?

- c. Let's take a look at what the word cleave means in the Hebrew.
 - i. #1692 is dabaq
 - ii. Means to impinge, to fasten, to cling to or adhere to
 - d. If you were going to separate a single object into two pieces, what would you have to do to it?
2. On page 102 you will find Matthew 19:1-12. Carefully read it making observations of this passage. Make any lists that may be important.
3. Now we are going to look at some more word definitions.
- a. Divorce (put away, KJV) - Matthew 19:3
 - i. #630 - apoluo
 - ii. To let loose, unbind a person, to release, let go free, dismiss
 - iii. Denotes departure, cessation, completion, reversal
 - iv. To break, destroy, or melt
 - v. **To let die**
 - b. Cleave - Matthew 19:5
 - i. #4347 - proskollao
 - ii. To glue one thing to another
 - iii. Permanent adhesion
 - iv. To be joined with
 - c. Joined - Matthew 19:6
 - i. #4801 - suzeugnumi
 - ii. To yoke, pair, to yoke together as with animals, to unite
 - iii. Comes from zugos
 1. A coupling
 2. Servitude
 3. Law or obligation
 4. The beam of balance
 - d. Separate (put asunder, KJV) - Matthew 19:6
 - i. #5563 - chorizo
 - ii. To put apart, to sever
 - iii. To place a chasm between

5. Turn to Malachi 2:13-17 in your Bible and read it. At the top of that page in your Bible write, "God Hates Divorce!" By doing this if you ever need the verse and cannot remember its address, you can always flip through your Bible and find it.
6. This passage is powerful. God is upset with His people and for good reason! They have just returned from the Babylonian captivity and have been allowed back into their land by the grace of God. The temple and the walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt. Sacrifices had begun again, but what were God's people doing? They were presenting defiled food on God's altar. They were bringing lame, blind, and sick sacrifices. They were saying, "It is tiresome to worship the Lord." The priests were not honoring God's name but turning aside from God's ways and causing others to stumble. They were robbing God of His tithes and offerings AND they were divorcing their wives! Now turn to page 103 and read Malachi 2:13-17. Read this very carefully. Don't miss a word! Ask God to soften your heart and help you to view what was going on through His eyes. Observe the verses, marking key words and listing what you learn about them, then answer the following questions.
 - a. Why was God not regarding the offerings the people were bringing?
 - b. How had the people responded to God's rejection or His ignoring of their offerings?
 - c. The word "spirit" is a key repeated word. Make sure you mark it! What is God saying about their spirit?
 - d. How does God feel about divorce?
 - e. Think about this. If God hates divorce, why did Moses permit bills of divorcement? We will discuss that in an upcoming lesson.

7. Read Hebrews 13:4 and see God's perspective on the marriage relationship. What do you think God means when He says that marriage is to "be held in honor among all?"

8. Why do you think God will judge fornicators and adulterers?

9. Let's look at how God has judged or will judge those who do not honor marriage. Read the following verses, and note what God judges and how it is judged.
 - a. Leviticus 20:10

 - b. Leviticus 20:11

 - c. Leviticus 20:13

 - d. Leviticus 20:15

 - e. I Corinthians 6:9-10

 - f. Revelation 21:8

DAY 2

Have you wondered why God hates divorce. Why does His judgment against adultery and other sexual immorality seem so harsh?

Marriage is an earthly picture of a heavenly relationship; therefore, when we mar God's earthly picture of marriage, it distorts and confuses God's visual image of Christ's relationship with His church. Earthly marriages were intended to be living testimonies of Jesus' inseparable union with believers!

1. We are going to look back at Ephesians 5:22-33 on OWS 17-18. We want to look at these verses and see how Paul compares the relationship of man and wife to Christ and His church. List the things that you learn about Christ's relationship to the church below. Make sure that you note the oneness between the church and Christ.

2. Now compare what you have read so far today with I Corinthians 6:15-17. Record your insights.

3. II Corinthians 11:2-3 shows a picture of Christ and His church. Read these verses and note what God's desire is for the one betrothed to Christ.

DAY 3

1. We are going to start today by looking at the issue of adultery. Read Matthew 5:27-32 on page 104 very carefully.
 - a. Read this passage through again, then come back and look at verse 27. Jesus says, "it was said," rather than, "It was written." When He uses the term "said," He is referring to the oral law of the Pharisees' traditions, which may or may not have been an accurate representation of what God laid down as law in the Old Testament. The Pharisees had a way of embellishing, adding to, or reinterpreting the Law. So Jesus, on the Sermon on the Mount, is dealing with the heart of the Law. The Pharisees kept it according to the external letter of the Law, but they missed God's heart. Jesus wants them (and us) to see God's heart on these issues.
 - b. The verb "looks" in verse 28 is in the present tense which implies a continuous action or a habit of life. In other words the looking was not a chance occurrence but rather a purposeful concentration. Read through this passage again remembering the meaning of "looks."
 - c. The transliteration of the verb divorces in verse 31 and 32 is apolou. Jot down the meaning from page 92 as a refresher to what that word means.
 - d. From this passage define what adultery is. Be thorough.
 - e. According to this passage, how serious is adultery?

- f. According to Matthew, adultery begins in the heart: "For out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications . . ."
 - i. Read Exodus 20:17. How does this commandment relate to adultery in the heart?
 1. What is God saying?
 2. How does this relate to adultery in the heart?
 3. What is Job's preventative medicine?
 - ii. Read Job 31:1, 9-12.
 1. What is God saying?
 2. How does this relate to adultery in the heart?
 3. What is Job's preventative medicine?
2. Compare Mark 10:2-12 and Luke 16:18 with what you have seen in Matthew 5:27-32. Record your insights about these Scriptures.
3. In light of what you have seen so far, why do you think that God is so hard on adultery?

4. One last assignment for today. In today's world women pursue men and think nothing of it. They are on the prowl. They are bold, and they make it known that they are available! The book of Proverbs refers to these women as "strange" or "foreign" women. They are "foreign" because a Jewish woman would not behave in such a manner. God sets down some wisdom for men who would be flattered and enticed by these women. These men, so easily enticed are referred to as "dumb" men. Let's take some preventative measures today whether you are male or female, single or married. Listen carefully to what God has to say about strange women and dumb men. Let's not fall prey to the trap! Read the passages carefully, and then fill in the chart on the next page. Heed the wisdom of the words!

a. Proverbs 2:10-11, 16-19

b. Proverbs 5:15-23

c. Proverbs 6:20-7:27

d. Proverbs 30:20

Strange Women and Dumb Men	
Characteristics and Behaviors of Strange Women	
Characteristics and Behaviors of Dumb Men	
Tactics of Strange Women	
Instructions to the Dumb Men	
Dumb Men's Destiny	
God's Warnings	

Matthew 19:1-12

¹ When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan;

² and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.

³ *Some* Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason at all?”

⁴ And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

⁵ and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’?

⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

⁷ They *said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY?”

⁸ He *said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

¹⁰ The disciples *said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ But He said to them, “Not all men *can* accept this statement, but *only* those to whom it has been given.

¹² For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are *also* eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept *this*, let him accept *it*.”

Malachi 2:13-17

¹³ “This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts *it with* favor from your hand.

¹⁴ Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

¹⁵ But not one has done *so* who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did *that* one *do* while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

¹⁶ For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

¹⁷ You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied *Him*?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

Matthew 5:27-32

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’;

²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹ If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³⁰ If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹ “It was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’;

³² but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

DAY 4 AND DAY 5

We are going to do something very different for the remainder of this week and next week. We are going to take a unique look at the issue of divorce and remarriage. Each of you will approach this issue from a different viewpoint.

If you are married, divorce should not be part of your vocabulary. It should never be an option or viewed as a way out. Separation, in God's order, is also not an option. These are things that should not even be thought about. These thoughts should be Philipians 4:8ed and then II Corinthians 10:5ed - taken captive and then destroyed because they are raised up against the knowledge of God.

Some of you may already be divorced and remarried. If that is the case, ask God's forgiveness for past sins, and begin today to walk in the light of God's Word. We can't undo our past, but we can receive forgiveness. When wrongs are confessed and left at the foot of the cross, we can walk in newness of life. We may still have to suffer the consequences of our wrongs, but we don't need to live in the guilt of them. From this time forward make the commitment to live your life according to God's will and His plan.

Some of you may be divorced and living a single lifestyle. Take God's Word to heart, allow Him to work through your life, and rectify the wrongs that have been done. There may be apologies that you need to make. Make a commitment to God that you will live in purity and integrity until such time as He may see fit to bring a marriage partner into your life - one of His choosing.

Some of you may be living in a marriage relationship that has been torn apart by hurts or unfaithfulness. You may be living in the same house, but the relationship has turned bitter and hateful. Maybe you have separated, thinking that space and time will help work things out. Space and time are the devil's tools not God's. God's plan for you is to follow Him and keep your eyes focused on Him alone. Let Him heal the wounds; let Him bring you comfort; let Him be your solace in this dark time. Commit to put aside self, allow God's agape love to flow through you, and work through the problems. If your spouse is unwilling to follow the Lord, then you need to be committed to become the man or the woman that God wants you to be regardless of what your spouse chooses to do. If you are following the Lord with all your heart and mind, you may be surprised to find out that it is not as important for your spouse to respond like you thought they should. Trust your life into the hands of the righteous Judge and allow Him time and space to move and work in the heart of your spouse. Remember that His ways are not our ways, and many times our good intentioned efforts to help God out serve only to get in His way.

With that behind us, we are about to step into a courtroom and put divorce on trial. Sit back and watch as God makes His case and renders His verdict. Court is now in session.

Divorce on Trial - All the Facts! Is it ever God's will to divorce?

Will the following defendant please take the stand.

Romans 7:2-3

² For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

³ So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

Q - Many people try to make you stand alone. What do you say frees a person from marriage?

Q - Does it look like divorce is permitted?

No more questions for this witness. I would now like to call Deuteronomy to the stand.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

¹ “When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out from his house,

² and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man’s *wife*,

³ and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife,

⁴ *then* her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

Prosecutor's Interrogation

Q - According to this passage, why would a man write his wife a bill of divorcement?

Q - What exactly is the transliteration and definition of the Hebrew word favor?

#2580 - chen

Kindness, favor, graciousness, pleasantness

Q - What exactly is the transliteration and definition of the Hebrew word indecency?

#6172 - eruah

Nudity, disgrace, blemish, shame, uncleanness

Q - What did the bill of divorcement grant to the wife who was sent away?

Q - Once a divorced wife remarried, could she ever go back to her first husband? Why or why not?

Q - Why do you think this woman has been defiled?

I now call the gospels to the stand as they give further evidence to what Mr. Deuteronomy has just testified.

Matthew 19:1-12

¹ When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan;

² and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.

³ *Some* Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason at all?”

⁴ And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

⁵ and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’?

⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

⁷ They *said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY?”

⁸ He *said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.

⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

¹⁰ The disciples *said to Him, “If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ But He said to them, “Not all men *can* accept this statement, but *only* those to whom it has been given.

¹² For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are *also* eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept *this*, let him accept *it*.”

Matthew 5:27-32

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’;

²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

²⁹ If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³⁰ If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹ “It was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’;

³² but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Mark 10:2-12

² *Some* Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and *began* to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.

³ And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?”

⁴ They said, “Moses permitted *a man* TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY.”

⁵ But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.

⁶ But from the beginning of creation, *God* MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.

⁷ FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER,

⁸ AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh.

⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

¹⁰ In the house the disciples *began* questioning Him about this again.

¹¹ And He *said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her;

¹² and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”

Luke 16:18

“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

Prosecutor's Interrogation

Q - Why exactly did Moses permit a man to write a certificate of divorcement? Don't miss the cause that comes from both partners! (Matthew 19)

Q - What is the transliteration and definition of the Greek word permitted? (Matthew 19:8)

#2010 - epcetrep

Allow, give leave, turn over

From the root #5157 - to turn, to revolt, revolution, turning away

Q - Does the fact that Moses "permitted" this bill of divorcement show that it was what God wanted? Explain your answer.

Q - What is the definition of the Greek word commandment? (Mark 10:5)

#1785

Injunction, authoritative prescription

Q - If Moses wrote the "commandment" granting a bill of divorcement, was it what God desired? If not, why then was it written?

Next on the stand will be Malachi.

Malachi 2:13-17

¹³ “This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts *it with favor* from your hand.

¹⁴ Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

¹⁵ But not one has done *so* who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did *that one do* while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

¹⁶ For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

¹⁷ You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied *Him?*” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”

Prosecutor's Interrogation

Q - When one puts away his or her mate, how is that person dealing with their mate?

Q - What part of a person is "out of whack" when he or she puts away his or her mate?

Q - God refers to a man's wife as "your wife by covenant." A covenant is a solemn, binding oath, a commitment which is to be kept. To be unfaithful to this commitment has dire consequences.

At this time the prosecution would like to call two expert witnesses on the binding commitment of a covenant and the consequences of breaking said covenant. Prosecution calls Jeremiah and I Corinthians to the stand.

Jeremiah 34:18-20

¹⁸ I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not fulfilled the words of the covenant which they made before Me, *when* they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts—

¹⁹ the officials of Judah and the officials of Jerusalem, the court officers and the priests and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf—

²⁰ I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life. And their dead bodies will be food for the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth.

I Corinthians 11:25-30

²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

²⁸ But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

Q - How did God punish covenant breakers?

Q - How does this compare with what we have established about divorce and adultery?

Q - What would be God's purpose in having two people continue in their marriage commitment when living together could be difficult?

I would now like to call I Corinthians 7 to the stand to shed a little more light on this line of questioning.

I Corinthians 7:10-16

¹⁰ But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband

¹¹ (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹² But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her.

¹³ And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away.

¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.

¹⁵ Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such *cases*, but God has called us to peace.

¹⁶ For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Prosecutor's Interrogation

Q - What is God's command to the husband or wife in verse 10 and 11?

Q - If a person doesn't obey this commandment but departs from it, what is the Lord's instruction to him?

Q - What is a believer's obligation to a non-believing spouse? Why?

Q - If a non-believing spouse desires to depart, what should the believer do and why?

Q - What is the transliteration and definition of the Greek word bondage?

#1402 - douloo

A slave, under subjection, become a servant to

Q - What does it mean that the believer is not under bondage if the unbeliever departs?

Q - If an unbeliever willfully departs from a believer, do you think that the believer must remain unmarried, or is he or she free to remarry?

Q - Explain what I Corinthians 7:16 means?

Now we have a question. What if a person is divorced, then saved? Are they free to marry again? I call to the stand the latter part of I Corinthians 7.

I Corinthians 7:20-28, 32-35

²⁰ Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called.

²¹ Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.

²² For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.

²³ You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

²⁴ Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that *condition* in which he was called.

²⁵ Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy.

²⁶ I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

²⁸ But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

³² But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;

³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,

³⁴ and *his interests* are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

³⁵ This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and *to secure* undistracted devotion to the Lord.

Q - What do we learn from this passage?

The prosecution rests!

Now how would you explain to someone God's feelings on divorce and remarriage?
You don't have all the information yet, for the trial isn't over. It will continue next week.
However, from what you have heard so far from the Scriptures that have taken the stand,
how would you explain God's feelings about divorce and remarriage?

Divorce on Trial - Part 2

Is it ever God's will to divorce?

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

Having received the evidence of Matthew, stating that sexual immorality gives grounds for divorce, the opposition is eager to bring out their major character witness to the stand.

There is confusion in the courtroom. People are puzzled, and there are numerous debates going on all around the courtroom.

Why do the people seem to have so much to say about this particular witness? Why is there such a buzz of activity? It is just about time for the Judge to arrive.

The bailiff is on his feet. "Hear ye, hear ye! The court is now in session! Adonai Jehovah, Lord God, is now called to the stand."

How can this be? Can God testify against His own Word? Don't be alarmed. The Word of God stands. It is inerrant, without contradiction. It is GOD BREATHED! God is taking a stand to let His heart be known. He knows all about divorce. He's been divorced! Does that shock you? How can a God who hates divorce, have been divorced? Listen carefully. Take careful notes. Hear what He has to say, and see His broken heart and the tears in His eyes as He tells you the story of His beloved, and the heartbreak she brought to Him. See His love for her through it all, and watch the compassion and forgiveness etched on His face. Hear the voice of God!

1. We need to go through a brief history of Israel before we approach God's Word. Let's start at the beginning.
 - a. The nation of Israel found its beginnings in Abram, who in Genesis 12 was called by God to leave his home in Ur to sojourn in a foreign land that God promised to Abram's descendants, a new nation that God would form through Abram and his wife Sarai.

- b. In Genesis 15 we see that Abram believed and God imputed it to him as righteousness. On that day God entered into a covenant with Abram. It was a covenant that would bring the Seed by whom all the nations of the world would be blessed (Galatians 3:16).
- c. In Genesis 17 God instituted circumcision as the sign of the covenant. At that time God change Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah.
- d. God then gave Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac through whom the descendants will be named (Romans 9:7).
- e. Isaac married Rebekah, and they gave birth to twins, Esau and Jacob. Jacob was to be the one of God's choice for the continuing promise of the Seed.
- f. Jacob's name was changed to Israel. He had 12 sons, becoming the 12 tribes of Israel, the nation of Israel.
- g. The 12 tribes formed a united kingdom which remained united through the kingship of Saul, David, and Solomon.
- h. At the death of Solomon, 931 BC, the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms, the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom (I Kings 12). These two kingdoms are referred to as sisters by the prophets of Ezekiel (23) and Jeremiah (3:6-11). They are also referred to as the daughters of Israel because of their split from the single kingdom.
 - i. The Northern Kingdom is referred to as Israel in the prophets. It consisted of ten tribes and their capital was Samaria. This kingdom was the first to go into idolatry. Sometimes Israel, the Northern Kingdom, is referred to as Ephraim.
 - ii. The Southern Kingdom is referred to as Judah in the prophets. It consisted of two tribes; Judah (the tribe of the Messiah, the Seed) and Benjamin. Jerusalem was the capital of the Southern Kingdom.
- i. As Israel went into idolatry, so her sister Judah followed lifting up her skirts to every passer-by. During this time, God sent prophet after prophet to warn His people and to turn them from their wicked ways lest God bring judgment upon

them and remove them from their land by letting them be taken captive by a people who knew Him not.

- i. Isaiah prophesied for fifty years during very critical periods in the history of Israel and Judah. Isaiah's ministry was primarily to the kingdom of Judah and occurred before either Israel or Judah went into captivity. Isaiah's public ministry was during the reigns of Uzziah, Jothan, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. The book of Isaiah is one of warning (chapters 1-39) and to comfort (chapters 40-66). Isaiah lived more than one hundred years before Judah went into captivity. After Isaiah's ministry, God was silent for approximately sixty years.
- ii. Hosea was God's prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. As the last writing prophet to minister to Israel before they were taken captive by the Assyrians in 722 BC, Hosea shows us, through his marriage to Gomer, the heart of God toward Israel. While Jeremiah is referred to as the "weeping prophet," Hosea is called "the prophet of the broken heart." His book, although one of judgment, is a message of love and grace.
- iii. Jeremiah, like Isaiah and Hosea, was also a pre-exilic prophet. The term "pre-exilic" refers to the period before the kingdom of Judah went into exile. Jeremiah was born during the reign of the wicked king Manasseh, and he lived through the time of the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC. When God called Jeremiah as a prophet, nearly one hundred years has passed since Israel had gone into Assyrian captivity. Josiah had been Judah's king for 12 years. Thus, Jeremiah was the weeping prophet who continuously warned Judah that God's judgment was at hand. Jeremiah went into exile with his people. The book of Jeremiah is more topical than chronological and is composed primarily of discourses and special prophecies. His message was destruction and construction.
- j. In 722 BC The Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians.
- k. In 586 BC the Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians. Jeremiah had prophesied that this captivity would last seventy years (Jeremiah

25:8-11). Then God would stir up Cyrus, king of Persia, to let God's people return to Jerusalem (II Chronicles 36:22-23).

1. Ezekiel was an exilic prophet. This means that he was God's prophet to His people while they were in captivity to the Babylonians. There were three invasions of Judah: the first in 605 BC, the second in 597 BC, and the final one in 587 BC, which resulted in the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Ezekiel was taken captive in the second invasion. Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel. Daniel was taken captive in the first invasion and became God's prophet to the court of King Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel began to prophesy five years after his captivity; and although he warned those Jews in captivity of the forthcoming fall of Jerusalem, they couldn't accept the fact that God would give their holy city over to Babylonian rule. You need to keep this fact in mind as you do your assignment, for it is not until Ezekiel 24:2 that Ezekiel learns that the king of Babylon has begun his siege against Jerusalem. In Ezekiel 33:21 the city is taken. Ezekiel has two main divisions: chapters 1-32 warn of judgment to come; chapters 33-48 tell of the restoration which is to come.
2. Read through Ezekiel 16 quickly, without stopping.
3. Read through the summary below to better understand what Ezekiel is saying in Chapter 16.
 - a. In the first 15 chapters of this book God is dealing with the stubborn, rebellious people of Israel. Israel was resting on its election as God's covenant nation. If God chose them, surely the prophets were wrong. Surely they could like any way they pleased. And surely, God would not judge them, after all He is the one who chose them! In chapter 16 God exposes Israel for being no better than other nations. He called her a bloody unwashed infant, and He had to punish her as He had other nations. He was going to punish them, but He never lost sight that they were His covenant people and they may be faithless, but He would remain faithful!
 - b. Ezekiel is divided into four main sections:
 - i. 1-14 - God's election and covenant with Israel as a nation
 - ii. 15-34 - Israel's sin - falls away into idolatry
 - iii. 35-52 - Israel's punishment announced
 - iv. 53-63 - Israel is restored to favor with God

- c. This is the covenant relationship between the Lord and His people. He represents this relationship as a marriage covenant. Jerusalem, as the symbol of Israel, the covenant nation, is addressed as a wife.
 - i. 1-14 - Israel is unclean, miserable, and very close to destruction, is adopted by the Lord, and is cared for and clothed
 - ii. 15-22 - Israel's apostasy is described as whoredom and adultery.
 - iii. 23-34 - Exposes how low they have sunk in their harlotry. While common prostitutes give themselves in return for pay (or presents), Israel has stooped so low that she pays her lovers!
 - iv. 35-52 - We see the just judgment of God because Israel had forgotten her God who chose her.
 - v. 53-63 - Because of God's grace and His covenant with Israel, God will not leave Jerusalem in misery.
 - vi. This is a warning from Ezekiel, because as he writes this the people have not yet fallen to the Babylonians.
- d. As you read through this passage, don't get bogged down in details. Remember that what we are looking at is God's heart toward His adulterous wife. All the rest is just to put you into context.

4. How does God refer to Jerusalem (Israel) in verse 32?

5. Write a description of what Israel was like when God found her.

6. What verse tells of God's marriage to Israel when He entered into a covenant with her?

7. What specific things did Israel do that made God call her a harlot? (Note what verses you find this information.)

8. God's marriage to Israel brought forth children. Find that verse, and write out what happened to those children.

9. How did God handle Israel's harlotries? What did He do?

10. Read through the chapter again, and look for any emotions shown by God. Note what verses you find them in.

11. There is one more chapter in Ezekiel you need to read. Read Ezekiel 23 and take notice of God's grief because of Israel's sin. Write down anything that God has shown you through this study in Ezekiel.

The Testimony Continues

DAY 3

1. Read Jeremiah 2, and carefully answer these questions.

a. Was God at fault as a husband? Is that why Israel was faithless? Answer with Scripture.

b. Was there a time when Israel was a devoted wife?

c. What exactly did Israel do that was wrong?

2. Read Jeremiah 3:1-25 and answer these questions.

a. How does Jeremiah 3:1 parallel with Deuteronomy 24:1-4?

b. According to Jeremiah 3:1, what pollutes the land?

c. What was the cause of Jeremiah 3:3? Did God sit by passively while Israel played the harlot? What did He do?

d. When Israel played the harlot, did God give up on her?

e. According to Jeremiah 3:8, what did God do to Israel?

f. After the writ of divorce, what was God's attitude toward Israel? Are there any conditions? Read Jeremiah 3:12-19 to answer this.

g. Read Jeremiah 3:20 and write out how this compared to Malachi 2:13-17.

It is a sad and shameful story. Why does God share it so openly in the courtroom of His Word? Read Romans 15:4-5, and write down your answer.

- f. When Israel returns, what will God do for her (Hosea 2:14-23)? Be as specific as you can.

DAY 5

This is the final day in court. The lord is about to give his final testimony. He takes the stand as the question is asked -

"Lord God, if there has been sexual immorality of some sort in a marriage, would you advise divorce? Surely you, having been married to Israel, know the great pain and suffering this brings. What would you advise?"

1. What would He say? Since His Word never changes, and it is always true, would He not say the same thing He said to Hosea? Write out Hosea 3:1.

2. What did it cost Hosea to do this? Put yourself in his shoes. You go to the slave market. There she stands, stripped naked so that every lustful eye could see her. The bidding begins. They are bidding for your wife. You outbid them all. She comes down off the block, and you wrap your robe around her. You look at her and know that she has been passed around from man to man, yet God has called you to bring her home and love her again. Hosea had to have a sacrificial love, a love that endures all things (I Corinthians 13), agape love, that only comes from God.

3. Israel looked at Hosea and Gomer and saw an earthly picture of a heavenly marriage, a marriage which would be restored. Why bother? Why buy her back? Why not leave her wallow in the filth that she deserves? Because Israel was God's wife by covenant.

4. What advice would you give to someone who had an unfaithful marriage partner? Write it out below. Use Scripture and think this through. You never know when God will give the opportunity to speak to someone in their time of need. You need to be ready to give them God's Word, because they are going to be bombarded with the world's answers!

Court is adjourned!

Biblical Principles of
Marriage and Family
Lesson 10 - Divorce and Remarriage

Tithing

DAY 1

You have probably heard much about giving to the church and to the Lord's work. This is tithing. Although we have heard much on this subject from a variety of places, have you ever studied what God's Word has to say on the subject?

God has much to say about tithing and finances. This will be the focus of our study for the next week. We will certainly not cover all the references on money and giving, but enough to give you an accurate picture of what God's Word has to say on the subject.

So let's first look at tithing. If we can't get that part down, we will have a real mess with our finances. So what does the Bible teach? Was tithing just an Old Testament practice as some think or does it have a place in the New Testament church?

Jesus said, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21) This is often used to tell us that we are obligated to pay taxes, we often miss what else this verse is saying. There is just as much emphasis on giving God the things that are God's! What do we have that is God's? The answer to that is simple - EVERYTHING!

As always we are going back to the beginning to see where this idea of giving to God a tenth of what we have - tithing - is first mentioned.

1. Look up the following verses and record what you learn from them. Note when something was tithed, where it was deposited, who received it, the amount that was given, and what was given.

a. Leviticus 27:14-32

b. Numbers 18:21-32

c. Deuteronomy 14:22-28

d. II Chronicles 31:5-12

e. Nehemiah 10:34-39

f. Malachi 3:7-12

2. Now let's take a look at what the New Testament teaches about tithing.

a. Matthew 23:23

b. Luke 11:42

c. Luke 18:12

d. Hebrews 7:5-9

3. Now that you have taken a look at some of the references that deal with tithing, answer the following questions as completely as you can, using Scripture to back up your answer.

a. What were God's instructions regarding tithing in the Old Testament?

b. What were God's instructions regarding tithing in the New Testament?

c. From your study on tithing so far, what conclusions have you drawn?

d. Does tithing have a part in the New Testament believer's life?

DAY 2

II Corinthians 8 and 9 are a summarized teaching on giving in the New Testament. We are going to take a look at both of these passages.

1. Read through these passages (II Corinthians 8:1-15 and II Corinthians 9:1-15) slowly and carefully, and mark key words, phrases that you find in them. Look for lists contrasts (usually noted by the use of the word but) and comparisons (usually noted by "like," "as," "just as.") These passages are typed out for you on pages 134-135.
2. When you have completed observing the passages, answer the following questions.
 - a. What is the attitude of giving reflected in these verses?
 - b. What do you learn about the practice of tithing from these chapters?
 - c. What does this kind of giving prove according to chapter 8?
 - d. What is the example of the Lord Jesus Christ given in II Corinthians 8?
 - e. Write out what you think God is saying in II Corinthians 8:12-15.

- f. In II Corinthians 9:6-10, what is God saying on the matter of giving?
- g. Summarize the general principles on giving in these two chapters, and note how they apply to you personally.

II Corinthians 8:1-15

¹ Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord,

⁴ begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

⁶ So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

⁷ But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, *see* that you abound in this gracious work also.

⁸ I am not speaking *this* as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

¹⁰ I give *my* opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do *this*, but also to desire *to do it*.

¹¹ But now finish doing it also, so that just as *there was* the readiness to desire it, so *there may be* also the completion of it by your ability.

¹² For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a person* has, not according to what he does not have.

¹³ For *this* is not for the ease of others *and* for your affliction, but by way of equality—

¹⁴ at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their need, so that their abundance also may become *a supply* for your need, that there may be equality;

¹⁵ as it is written, “HE WHO *gathered* MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO *gathered* LITTLE HAD NO LACK.”

II Corinthians 9:1-15

- ¹ For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;
- ² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.
- ³ But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;
- ⁴ otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—will be put to shame by this confidence.
- ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.
- ⁶ Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- ⁷ Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
- ⁹ as it is written, “HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER.”
- ¹⁰ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
- ¹¹ you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.
- ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.
- ¹³ Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
- ¹⁴ while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.
- ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Finances

DAY 4

The two shall become one flesh . . . And one pocketbook, too! Sometimes it is easier for the two to become one flesh and learn how to deal with each other than to deal with each other over financial situations.

Two major strains on the marriage relationship are communication and finances. Sometimes it is communication (or lack thereof) over the issue of finances. The pressures caused by the financial aspect of marriage has literally squeezed the life out of some, otherwise, strong marriages.

God is not ignorant of this fact. He gives many teachings on the subject of work, financial security, and priorities in handling money.

There is a reason why we dealt with the matter of tithing before we jumped into the matter of finances. From all that you have learned so far, why do you think it is important for us to have a handle on tithing before we begin looking at finances in our marriages?

If you are ever going to have a proper attitude and perspective on your financial situation, you will first need to recognize the promises of God regarding your needs. Many of us tend to hold onto every dime and possession we have so tightly because we are worried about not having it when we need it. Is this what God desires for our lives? Is this the way we learn to trust Him and His promises?

1. Read through the following verses and answer these questions.

a. Matthew 6:19-34

b. James 4:1-3

c. Philippians 4:6-7, 11-12, 14-19

d. I Peter 5:6-7

e. Psalms 37:25

f. Proverbs 3:9-10

g. Proverbs 6:1-5

h. Proverbs 10:4-5

i. Proverbs 12:27

j. Proverbs 15:27

k. Proverbs 22:1-2, 7, 16, 26-27, 29

l. Proverbs 23:4-5

m. Proverbs 24:30-34

n. Proverbs 28:27

o. Proverbs 30:7-9

p. Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

q. Romans 13:6-8

r. I Timothy 6:8-10, 17-19

DAY 5

1. Compiling all your information will help you to better see what God is saying throughout the Scriptures. You may want to list your information in categories like: attitude toward work, money management, attitude toward money, debt, and giving (tithing). You will want to do this on a separate paper or papers. Give this assignment plenty of time. Allow God's Word to lead you into truth.

2. Time for a little soul searching. Go before the Lord and ask Him to show you His evaluation of the money which He has entrusted to you. Write down what He shows you. Be honest with yourself and the Lord!

1. What ways are you pleasing the Lord in your management of His money?

2. What ways are you displeasing the Lord in the management of His money?

3. Where do you need to make changes in the management of His money and your attitude toward money and possessions?

4. List any new insights that you have in regard to tithing and finances now that you have seen what God's Word says on these matters.

Home and Children

Have there ever been times in your life when you have stopped and wondered if you were doing things right? Is this the way my family, my home, my children are supposed to be? Thoughts like this can breed insecurity. The world has many things to say on these topics, but are they Biblical? Where do we go? To whom do we turn? Are there absolutes or patterns that you can follow with confidence? The Word of God is your plumb line, your standard!

What happens when you can't find a definite verse for a definite situation in life? In those cases, how can I be sure that I am right? You can be sure that if you can't find a verse, you can find a principle. God tells us that His Word contains all that a person needs in order to be adequate, equipped for every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Our goal will be to discover how to establish a home and a family based on God's Word, according to His principles.

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

Today we are going to begin our search for the principles of life as set down in the Word of God. A principle is a foundational truth upon which one can build. It is a truth that is a foundation for other truths, a rule of action or conduct.

As we look for principles from the Bible that will enable us to establish our homes on truth, we will also be looking at some very specific doctrines and commands regarding the raising of children. Many times both principles for the home or family life will be intermingled with passages of Scripture which deal with the raising of children.

1. As you look for principles of living as an establisher, as a builder of a home, and as a parent, it is necessary for you to be convinced in your mind that our earthly relationships can find their counterpart in God's relationships. Our homes can find

their counterpart in God's home. Much of what you see on earth is a picture or reflection of the true. For instance, when you look at the Gospel of John, you find the Apostle referring to many earthly things and then comparing Jesus with them saying that He is the true "whatever." John 1:8-9 is an example. In these verses John talks about light, and then he refers to Jesus as the "true light." I believe that God created these earthly things in order to show us the "true." Therefore, the earthly becomes a picture of the "true." Let's look at some Scriptures that will illustrate my point. Next to each Scripture note what the "true" is in relation to what we see on earth.

a. John 6:32-35

b. John 15:1

c. Hebrews 8:1-2

d. Hebrews 9:24 (The holy place is a reference to the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle.)

2. We are going to take a look at some heavenly patterns that God has shown us so we can see that He uses this idea for several topics.

a. Hebrews 8:4-5

b. Matthew 6:9-10

c. Ephesians 3:14-15

3. So according to Ephesians 3:14-15 we see that God's family can set forth an example for our family. Let's see what He has to say. First, let's start with the concept of God being our Father. Read these verses and note to whom God is a Father.

a. Matthew 3:16-17; John 10:25

b. John 1:12; Romans 8:15

4. Now let's summarize what we have seen so far. Remember that we are looking for heavenly examples or patterns for earthly living. In a sense there are two realms: God's eternal realm and man's temporal realm. Someday God's Kingdom will rule on earth. However, until that time those who belong to Christ are to provide a living example of that which is true and eternal.

God's Realm (the Eternal)

Father-Son-Holy Spirit



Establish a home

John 14:2-3



Have children

John 3:5-8

I Peter 1:23

James 1:18



In their image

II Corinthians 3:18

Man's Realm (the Temporal)

Father-Mother



Establish a home

Genesis 2:24



Have Children

Genesis 1:28

Genesis 4:1-2



In parent's image

Genesis 5:3

Born into family

5. So what's the conclusion? It is a simple one in the light of what we have seen and said. If families on earth derive their name from God's family, then should not earthly parents find their pattern of behavior in the way God the Father deals with us, His earthly children? And if our ultimate hope is heaven and heaven is God's home, then should not the ultimate goal for our homes be to be like heaven? Of course! Then all that you can learn about God's relationship with His family can be applied, in principle, to your relationship with your family. And all you can learn about heaven can be applied, in principle, to your earthly home. To do so is to begin to see the answer to our Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
6. As we have a home, so also, God has one. What is His home like? And how does He, as a Father, live with His children in that home? To learn these things would be to acquire principles for your home and for your role as a parent. Therefore, let me share with you some pertinent Scriptures on the subject. As you look at each Scripture, note what you learn about heaven or what you learn about God that would be an example for you, for your home, or for you as a parent. If the verse tells you anything about heaven or eternity, note that information. Then think through how you can apply these characteristics in your home.
- a. Hebrews 11:10

 - b. John 14:2-3

 - c. Romans 14:17

 - d. Revelation 21:2, 27

e. Matthew 7:11

f. Psalm 16:11

g. Jeremiah 31:3; I John 4:10, 18, 19

h. Hebrews 12:7, 9

i. Romans 8:31; Hebrews 13:5-6

DAY 3

Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." The Old Testament serves as an example, a type, or a pattern for us. Keeping in mind all that has been said thus far, let's read Deuteronomy 6:1-7:13 located on pages 149-152.

1. Do your observations on these passages.
2. Fill in the chart below.

Instructions Regarding Children	Principles for the Christian Home

3. Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and note the responsibilities of parents and of children.
 - a. What are God's instructions to the children in verse 1-3?
 - b. Who is accountable for obeying these instructions?

- c. To whom are the instructions directed in verse 4?

 - d. List the specific instructions of verse 4?

 - e. Who will be accountable for carrying out the instructions of verse 4?
4. To better understand all that is involved in bringing up children, we are going to do some simple word studies.
- a. discipline (nurture, KJV)
 - i. #3809
 - ii. Paideia
 - iii. Tutorage, education or training
 - iv. Disciplinary correction

 - b. Instruction (admonition, KJV)
 - i. #3559
 - ii. Nouthesis
 - iii. Calling attention to, mild rebuke or warning
 - iv. To put into the mind
 - v. Word of encouragement when sufficient but also by a word of blame or reproof as required.
5. Do your observations on Hebrews 12:5-11. This is typed out as a worksheet on page 153.

6. Now we will look at one final verse for today. Read Colossians 3:21.

a. Exasperate (provoke, KJV)

i. #2042

ii. Erethizo

iii. To stimulate to anger

b. In what ways, and by what actions do you think a parent might provoke his children?

Deuteronomy 6:1-7:13

1 “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded *me* to teach you, that you might do *them* in the land where you are going over to possess it,

2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

3 O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do *it*, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, *in* a land flowing with milk and honey.

4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

10 “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build,

11 and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied,

12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

13 You shall fear *only* the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

14 You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you,

15 for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

16 “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah.

17 You should diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you.

18 You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the LORD swore to *give* your fathers,

19 by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What *do* the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments *mean* which the LORD our God commanded you?’

21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.

22 Moreover, the LORD showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household;

23 He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.’

24 So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as *it is* today.

25 It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God, just as He commanded us.

Deuteronomy 7

1 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you,

2 and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.

3 Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons.

4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you.

5 But thus you shall do to them: you shall tear down their altars, and smash their *sacred* pillars, and hew down their Asherim, and burn their graven images with fire.

6 For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

7 “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,

8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9 Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

10 but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.

11 Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them.

12 “Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers.

13 He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you.

Hebrews 12:5-11

5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness.

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Train Up Your Child

DAY 4 AND DAY 5

Proverbs 22:6 (NASB) - Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

This a very familiar verse, but do we truly understand it. Before we start our search through Scripture, let's make sure we understand this one.

- the Hebrew says not "in the way" but "in his way" or "according to his way" - showing the parents responsibility to put the child on the right path that God has planned for them. The Amplified Bible translates this phrase "the way he should go and in keeping with his individual gift or bent."
- "train" is the Hebrew word that means to initiate or discipline, dedicate, train up - and it is reserved for very early training for children
- "way" is a road, a course or life, a mode of action - the root of this word is to string a bow, guide, lead

1. Looking at all this, what do you think this verse means? How can a parent determine the way their child should go?

2. Take time to think through your child(ren)'s strengths, weaknesses, interests, and temperament.

3. Proverbs 1:1-4 - "The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion." This book was specifically written to receive instruction in wise behavior and to give youth knowledge and discretion. This certainly seems like a good place to look to gain knowledge in how to train our children. Read through these following chapters of Proverbs and record the instructions to "my son." These should be instructions that we should be passing on to our children. Are we being faithful to do that?

a. Proverbs 1

b. Proverbs 2

c. Proverbs 3

d. Proverbs 4

e. Proverbs 5

f. Proverbs 6

g. Proverbs 7

h. Proverbs 22:17-29

i. Proverbs 23

j. Proverbs 24

4. Part of training a child involves discipline. We live in a world that tells us that it is wrong to ever spank a child. Is that what the Bible teaches? Let's take a look and allow God to form the thoughts of our minds.

a. Proverbs 19:18

b. Proverbs 18:14

c. Proverbs 20:30

d. Proverbs 22:15

e. Proverbs 23:13-14

f. Proverbs 29:15

g. Proverbs 19:17

h. Proverbs 13:24

i. Proverbs 30:17

j. Summarize God's teachings on discipline.

5. Let's see what happens when a father withholds God's discipline from his children.

a. What was the sin of Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas?

b. How did Eli deal with his sons regarding their sins?

c. How did God feel about Eli's dealings with his sons?

d. What was the end result of all of this?

e. What does this teach you about the parents' responsibility to discipline their children?

6. The latest statistics show that there are two major influences on the lives of our teens. As much as we would like to think that they would be parents and the Bible, they are instead the media and their peers. As concerned parents, we should be restricting what our children watch, but we don't usually give much thought to their friends. We need to have an active part in helping them to choose the right friends. Read the following passages to see what God's Word says about those with whom we associated.

a. Deuteronomy 12:28-31

b. Deuteronomy 7:3-4 compared with II Corinthians 6:14-18

c. Psalms 1:1

d. Psalms 101:7

e. Psalms 141:4

f. Proverbs 12:26

g. Proverbs 22:24-25

h. Proverbs 28:7, 19

i. I Corinthians 15:33

j. Ephesians 5:6-7, 11

k. II Peter 2:7-8

l. Proverbs 13:20

7. I am going to leave you with some practical ways that you can develop some special times with your family. I hope you use these and other ideas that you might have that will create special moments and memories for your family.
- a. Build memories for your children. One of the greatest times as a family comes at the dinner table.
 - b. Vacations can be a special time, but don't confuse expensive for special. Our family visited many places across the US for very little money.
 - c. Take time to talk about activities you have done in the past. Talking about and looking at pictures of times in the past solidify these memories in their minds.
 - d. Take time to do silly, fun, different, and unusual things as a family. Don't be afraid to try new things. We had a can that I filled up with 52 slips of paper. Each paper contained a different activity. One for each week of the year. It could be game night, movie night, bowling, hiking, a favorite dessert, finger painting a picture, or taking a walk at 2:00 AM. My eldest son thought he was a celebrity after that walk. We woke the boys up at 2:00, grabbed our flashlights, and walked the sidewalks of our town. That week he told everyone in his 2nd grade class that while they were sleeping, he was wandering around the neighborhood. Over 20 years later, he still talks about that night. Be creative. It is work, but your family is worth it!
 - e. Start memory albums for each child. Make sure that you take time to celebrate who they are and what they have accomplished. Use that time to encourage them in the "way" that God has placed before them.
 - f. Take time to read and discuss Scripture together as a family and study the Bible.
 - g. Take time to do "man" things or "woman" things with your children. It is your job to teach them to become men and women. These open communications need to start when the children are two and three years old. This type of communication will give you opportunity to answer questions as they come up about their bodies and the way their bodies change as they get older. If you haven't been talking manly things or womanly things before that point, don't think that you are going to just comfortably jump into a topic that you haven't discussed for 13 years.

Example - a father talking to his son at five years of age can be talking about how he is going to develop muscles by carrying in the wood, and he will need those muscles when he is older in order to provide for his own family. Natural discussions like these allow sharing on a more intimate level when necessary.

- h. Read books together as a family.
- i. Pray that God would create a thirst in their lives for a relationship with Him.
- j. Make sure that your child has responsibility in the family. They need to understand that without them, the family unit would not be complete and would not be able to function. That means that you need to make them functional members of the family unit!

Observing a Chapter or Portion of Scripture

1. **PRAYER** - Always remember that prayer is the basis of your study! Lift this time to the Lord in prayer!
2. **CONTEXT** - Make sure that you keep that context in mind as you study each chapter. Let context rule! If you are studying a book, it is essential that you spend ample time studying the book as a whole to set the context for each chapter and section of the book.
3. **5W's AND H** - Learn to ask the 5 W's and H questions of the text. Who, what, where, when, why, and how. These are the basic questions to every study. Who is speaking and to whom? Why is he writing? What is happening in their lives? When was this taking place? What are the main points the author makes? You are not going to find answers to every question, but the answers to some of the questions may lead you to other questions to ask. Asking questions of the text keeps your mind focused and engaged in what you are reading!
4. **KEY WORDS** - Look for key, repeated words in this chapter or portion of Scripture. These are important words that help us to understand the author's intent or message. Make sure to mark references to Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and any pronouns or synonyms that are used. Time references are also key words to most portions of Scripture. Time references can be words like *after, then, when, until, everlasting, beginning, end*, etc. They are used to show the timing of events or a sequence of events. I use a blue clock to mark my time references. You may also see a word or phrase that was not mentioned throughout the whole book, but is mentioned just in this chapter (they are key to this chapter), and if so, you want to mark those words as well.
5. **LISTS** - Now you might ask yourself, what do I do with all these key words. You are going to make lists. This is the most important step to this exercise because now is the time to question the text about these important topics. Use a separate paper, the margin of your worksheets,

or your computer and begin listing what you learn about each key word. In Hebrews 1, you can start your list about Jesus like this

Jesus

1. 1:2 - *spoke to us in the last days*
2. 1:2 - *God appointed Him heir of all things*
3. 1:2 - *God created the world through Him*

6. **CONTRASTS, COMPARISONS, TERMS OF CONCLUSION** -

Look for terms of contrasts, comparisons, and terms of conclusions. Since these don't necessarily stand out clearly to most people, let me give you a little help finding them.

- a. **CONTRASTS** - this holds one thing up and then shows you the other side. Look for words like . . .
 - i. but, nevertheless, however
 - ii. Also things like light/dark, day/night, wicked/righteous
 - iii. Mark these in a distinctive way. I circle these words in a big red circle and then draw an arrow to the two things that are being contrasted. You may want to write these contrasts in the margins of your observation worksheets.
- b. **COMPARISONS** - this is just like something else. These are things that are similar or alike. Look for words like . . .
 - i. like, as, just as
 - ii. I use a lightning bolt in the side margin of my observation worksheets and I put the one comparison on one side and what it is like on the other.
- c. **TERMS OF CONCLUSION** - these indicate that the author is summarizing what he has said, drawing a conclusion to his thoughts, or the result of an action is being discussed. Look for words such as . . .
 - i. therefore, for, so that, for this reason
 - ii. I put these words in a green box and list the conclusions in the margin of my worksheets.

7. **MAJOR TEACHINGS** - looking for major characters, doctrines, events, actions. This will mostly be covered with key words and your key word lists. But now look at your chapter and see if there is

Biblical Principles of Marriage and Family

something that you may have missed. Make a list of what you learned about the characters, doctrines, events, or actions. Don't forget to record chapter and verse on your list.

8. **CHAPTER THEME** - After studying this chapter, are you happy with your chapter theme or would you like to change it? If you can use words from a specific verse, that would be very helpful and go a long way in memorizing Scripture.

Biblical Principles of Marriage and Family

Genesis 1:24-31

²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so.

²⁵ God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹ Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

³⁰ and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food”; and it was so.

³¹ God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Biblical Principles of
Marriage and Family

<p><u>God's Pattern for Making Man</u></p>	<p><u>What Exactly did God Make</u></p>
<p><u>God's Provision for Man's Sustenance</u></p>	<p><u>God's Feelings about What He Created</u></p>
<p><u>Anything Else You Observed</u></p>	

Genesis 2

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

² By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.

⁵ Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

⁶ But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

⁷ Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

¹² The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

Biblical Principles of Marriage and Family

¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

²³ The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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<p>What Do You Learn About the Man</p>	<p>What Do You Learn About the Woman</p>
<p>What Do You Learn About Their Relationship (Marriage)</p>	<p>God's Instructions to Them</p>
<p>Anything Else You Observed</p>	

I Corinthians 11:3-12

³ But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

⁴ Every man who has *something* on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head.

⁵ But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved.

⁶ For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.

⁷ For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.

⁸ For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;

⁹ for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. ¹⁰ Therefore the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on her head, because of the angels.

¹¹ However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.

¹² For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things originate from God.

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I Peter 3:7-12

⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

⁸ To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ For,

“THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS,
MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM
SPEAKING DECEIT.

¹¹ “HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD;
HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

¹² “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS,
AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,
BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”

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Husband's Behavior towards Wife	A Believer's Behavior towards Others
God's Attitude toward the Righteous	God's Attitude toward the Unrighteous
The Believer's Attitude Toward Sin	

I Timothy 2:9-15

9 Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,

10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

13 For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve.

14 And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

15 But *women* will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

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Ephesians 5:15-33

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,
16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with
the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
to God, even the Father;
21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the
church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.
24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to
their husbands in everything.
25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and
gave Himself up for her,
26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of
water with the word,
27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no
spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and
blameless.
28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He
who loves his own wife loves himself;

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29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,

30 because we are members of His body.

31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

I Peter 2:18-3:6

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

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2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

Proverbs 31:10-31

10 An excellent wife, who can find?
For her worth is far above jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
And he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.

13 She looks for wool and flax
And works with her hands in delight.

14 She is like merchant ships;
She brings her food from afar.

15 She rises also while it is still night
And gives food to her household
And portions to her maidens.

16 She considers a field and buys it;
From her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17 She girds herself with strength
And makes her arms strong.

18 She senses that her gain is good;
Her lamp does not go out at night.

19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her hands grasp the spindle.

20 She extends her hand to the poor,
And she stretches out her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household,
For all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She makes coverings for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells *them*,
And supplies belts to the tradesmen.

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she smiles at the future.

26 She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

27 She looks well to the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children rise up and bless her;
Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*:

29 “Many daughters have done nobly,
But you excel them all.”

30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

31 Give her the product of her hands,
And let her works praise her in the gates.

James 3:1-12

1 Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

8 But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

10 from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

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11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter water?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.