

LESSON 1

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: The Origin Of the Home

Memory Verse: "And Jehovah God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a help meet for him." Genesis 2:18

DAY 1 The First Home as Designed by The Creator.

- a. The home is the oldest institution on earth. It is the foundation of a stable society. It was ordained of God at Creation in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7-8, 18.
- b. God gave Adam a "helper suitable" to him to share with him the blessings and responsibilities of life, Genesis 2:18-25.
- c. God instructed Adam and Eve to rule over the "every living thing" on the earth and to bear children, Genesis 1:28. (Adam and Eve complemented each other in fulfilling God's plan.)

DAY 2 Two Essentials in a Home are Food and Shelter.

- a. The husband is to work to provide these necessities for his family, Genesis 3:17-19; I Tim.5:8. The man must commit himself to this before he marries, else he is not prepared for marriage.
- b. The wife is to be a helper by preparing the food and shelter and giving special care to the children, Gen. 3:16; Prov.31:15-22, 27; Titus 2:4-5; I Timothy 5:14. (Physically able to nurse them.)
- c. Only together could they propagate the human race. Only the woman could bear the children, but not without the man, I Corinthians 11:8-12; I Timothy 2:15.

DAY 3 A Third Essential - LOVE!

- a. Love of self - selfishness - will quickly destroy a family, II Timothy 3:2.
- b. Love in the family must comply with the definition of love (AGAPE) in I Corinthians 13:4-7.
- c. **Greek has four words for love: (1) *Eros* is "sexual love," physical desire. (2) *Storge* is love for family; mother, father, brother, sister, kin. (3) *Philia* is love for a dear friend, for someone you like. "This is the highest word in secular Greek for love. It describes a warm, intimate, tender relationship of body, mind and spirit. It includes the physical side of love...but it includes very much more."(Barclay, *Flesh and Spirit*, p.64). The above forms of love are never commanded. (4) *Agape* - "is unconquerable benevolence, undefeatable goodwill" (Barclay, p. 65). This is not emotional love for someone you might be attracted to as a friend or lover, but this is love or goodwill for someone who might be "unlovely or unlovable." It is to seek the highest good for one quite independently of what the man is, or is doing, or has done." (Ibid.).**
- d. Husbands are to love their wives, using Christ as their example, Ephesians 5:25, 28-33.
- e. Wives are to be taught to love their husbands and children, Titus 2:4.
- f. Children are to honor their parents, Ephesians 6:1-3; Mark 7:10-13.

DAY 4 The Fourth Essential in the Home is Righteousness.

- a. God has always required His word to be respected and taught in the home, Deut.6:5-6.
- b. God holds the father responsible to train his children in righteousness, Prov.22:6; Eph.6:4.
- c. The prosperity of Israel depended upon the families teaching and respecting God's word, Deut. 11:18-23.

DAY 5 Warning: Obligations of the Kingdom Come Before those of the Home.

- a. We are to put the kingdom first in our lives, then God will help us provide the necessary things for the family, Matthew 6:24-34
- b. Jesus warned against putting love of family above serving Him, Matthew 10:34-37.

LESSON 2

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: The Marriage

Memory Verse: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

DAY 1 Marriage Is a Divine Institution.

- a. Jesus taught that God ordained or created the first marriage with the first man and woman, Matthew 19:4-6; I Timothy 4:3.
- b. Marriage is honorable for all, Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 12:4; 18:22; Hebrews 13:4.
- c. Marriage is not mandatory for every individual, I Corinthians 7:25-38. Note: Paul carefully advised against marriage during certain difficult times, v. 26; cf. v. 1; Heb.13:4.

DAY 2 The Purpose of Marriage.

- a. To provide loving companionship, Genesis 2:18; Song of Solomon 1:2; 7:10-13. Ruth typifies a woman's attitude, Ruth 1:16-17. The permanence of marriage as ordained by the Lord provides a sense of security and support for both husband and wife. Each knows that the other has pledged to love and cherish in sickness and in health till death parts them, Matt. 19:4-6.
- b. To prevent immorality, I Corinthians 7:2; Proverbs 5:15-20.
- c. To produce children and provide for their care, Genesis 1:28. Each would assist the other in the rearing and training of the children, Eph.6:4; I Cor.11:8-12; I Tim.2:15..
- d. To provide employment for men and women, I Timothy 5:8, 13-14; Ephesians 4:28

DAY 3 What Constitutes Marriage? It Varies in Different Societies.

- a. Intent - This is often declared by an engagement announcement or betrothal. "In Bible times this was as binding as the marriage ceremony, Deut.20:7. Joseph and Mary, Matt.1: 18ff." Sex with no intent of marriage is nothing more than fomicacation or slavery.
- b. There is usually a ceremony, "but not necessary in God's eyes." Some countries and states require a ceremony of some kind. There must be compliance with civil law, I Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:29. A marriage feast might serve as a public ceremony, thus providing public knowledge that the man and woman are to be living together as husband and wife, John 2:1-11; Matt.25:1-11.
- c. Some argue that a couple is married the moment that the betrothal or espousal takes place. See Donnie V. Rader, *Divorce & Remarriage*, p. 10, 11. "...in the N.T., only in the Passive voice, to be promised in marriage, to be betrothed. Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:27; 2:5..." W. E. Vine, p. 122, defining the Greek word mnesteuo, espoused.
- d. "Is it necessary to engage in sexual intercourse before a couple is scripturally married?" Matt. 19:4-6. "The consummation is the act of love that causes us to become one flesh, Gen.4:1; 24:67. Note the Bible conveys this thought with using the words 'knew' and 'loved'." -A. O. Schnabel. (Also Matt. 1:24-25.)

DAY 4 "And the Two Shall Become One Flesh."

- a. Each pledges the giving of their body to the other at marriage, thus becoming "one flesh," Matt. 19:6; I Cor. 7:2-4. Note that the word "due" means, "that which is owed through pledge to another," and is a legal term denoting this passage to be a command. -A. O. Schnabel.
- b. The only exception to the above command is by mutual consent, for the purpose involving prayer, and then only for a short season, I Cor.7:5.
- c. To "join" ourselves to anyone other than our marriage partner is fornication and a sin against our own body as well as against God, I Cor.6:16-18.

DAY 5 Authority in Marriage.

- a. God decreed the husband to be the head of the wife, I Cor. 11:3; Eph.5:23-24.
- b. The wife is to be subject to her husband "as is fitting in the Lord," hence, the husband has no authority to counter the Lord's commands, Col.3:18; I Peter 3:1-6.
- c. Children are to be obedient to their parents, Colossians 3:20; Romans 1:30 (notice context).
- d. The wife is to "rule the household," I Tim.5:14.

LESSON 3

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: Marriage and Divorce

Memory Verse: "So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." -Matthew 19:6

DAY 1 A Marriage Ceases at Death.

- a. Marriage is broken with honor to both parties only by the death of one of the parties, Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 7:39.
- b. Under Moses' law, "if a man die, having no children," a brother must marry his deceased brother's childless wife to raise up children for perpetuation of his brother's name, Deut.25:5-10. This caused a question about marriage after such a death, Matthew 22:23-30.

DAY 2 Moses "Suffered" the Israelites to Put Away Their Wives, Matt.19:3-8.

- a. This was allowed, though not approved, because of the "hardness of heart" of rebellious people of Israel who might even murder to rid themselves of a wife who had become displeasing to her husband.
- b. Contingency Legislation In the Law of Moses Provided Protection for the Put-Away Wife, Deut.24:1-4...but does not specify "causes God would approve for putting away."
- c. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 does not set aside the principle of permanence implied in Genesis 2:23-24. About a thousand years after the law was given, God still disapproved of divorce, Malachi 2:16.

DAY 3 The Law of Christ Prohibits Divorce and Reinforces its Permanence.

- a. Man is not to put asunder what God has joined together, Matt. 19:3-12; Mark 10:2-9.
- b. Divorce exposes husband, wife, and any other party who might become involved with either of them in any future relationship to the sin of adultery, Matt.5:31-32; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18.

DAY 4 One Might Separate from A Spouse Under Certain Circumstances But in such Cases Must Remain Unmarried or Be Reconciled, I Cor.7:10-11.

- a. No one can be allowed to hinder or prevent one's service to God, no matter what the relationship might be, Matthew 10:34-37; Luke 18:28-30. This is another case of "contingency legislation."
- b. Under no circumstances should one "depart" unless there is interference in serving God as one should, Colossians 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:22-33.

DAY 5 The Authorized Exception to Divorce and Remarriage...

- a. Jesus taught that fornication is the one exception that permits divorce and remarriage. In this case, for the innocent party's sake, God permits the innocent party to divorce the guilty spouse and marry another who has the right to be married, Matthew 5:32; 19:3-12.
- b. Under certain circumstances (contingencies), God allows the Christian to remain separated from an unbelieving mate if the unbeliever chooses to depart, I Corinthians 7:15, but this does not give either the right to remarry. "Bondage" (Greek = douloo), verse 15, is not the same as "bound" (Greek = deo), v. 27, 39; Romans 7:1-3.
- c. If proper correction can be made in any case (vv.10-11 or v. 15), reconciliation would be desirable, I Corinthians 7:2-5.

LESSON 4

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: God's Restrictions on Marriage

Memory Verse: "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another commits adultery." Matthew 19:9 NASV

DAY 1 Who is Permitted to Marry?

- a. Those previously unmarried, I Corinthians 7:2, 28.
- b. Those whose spouses are dead, I Corinthians 7:39; Romans 7:1-3.
- c. Those who have divorced companions for fornication, Matthew 19:3-9.

DAY 2 Who is NOT Permitted to Marry?

- a. Those who have living spouses, Romans 7:2-3.
- b. Those who have divorced their companions for reasons other than fornication, Matthew 5:32; Mark 10:6-12.
- c. Those who have been divorced, Matthew 19:9.

DAY 3 Those Who One Must Not Marry.

- a. In the sight of God, those cannot be married to another who have been divorced, with the exception of the innocent party in the case of fornication, Matt. 19:9.
- b. Wisdom must be exercised in choosing a mate. One should not date someone who has no right to marry, even when you have no intentions of marrying that person.
- c. One should not date a person who is a bad influence on others or has bad habits, I Cor. 15:33.
- d. What about dating someone who will not attend church services with you? Or, someone who wants you to go to immoral or questionable places?

DAY 4 Young People Need to be Taught to be Selective in Choosing a Mate.

- a. Abraham carefully selected a wife for his son Isaac from among those he knew believed in Jehovah, Gen.24:2-7, 14, 23-24, 50-51.
- b. Many a heartache comes from being married to someone who has no religious convictions or believes contrary to his or her spouse. Most of Solomon's problems stem from mistakes he made in marriages, I Kings 11:1-10. Consider the effects of mixed marriages on your children.
- c. Remember that the choice of a mate is a choice "until death parts us."
- d. A young lady should not marry a man who has no business or work skills. How will he support her and a family? And what about a young man who marries a girl who has no homemaking skills and no desires to learn such?
- e. Find out if your prospective mate desires to have children.
- f. What about a prospective mate who has no desire to study the Bible or no desire to be a Christian?

DAY 5 Only One Mate at a Time Intended.

- a. God made one woman for Adam.
- b. Polygamy has always been disastrous, as in the case of Solomon. Ask either Sarah or Hagar, or Leah or Rachel.
- c. Consider I Timothy 3:2, 12; 5:9.

LESSON 5

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: The Husband / Father in the Home

Memory Verse: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it." Ephesians 5:25

DAY 1 The Husband is the Head of the Home or Family.

- a. The father has the same authority and concern for his family as Christ for the church. Ephesians 5:23-25; I Corinthians 11:3; Eph.6:1-4.
- b. This does not mean that the husband does not give attention to his wife's suggestions or advice, Gen.21:8-12. If someone has the responsibility of making the final decision, who would it be?

DAY 2 The Husband is to Love His Wife.

- a. God joins the husband to his wife. The husband's taking a woman to be his wife involves an act of God, and the husband must always honor his own decision and God's act as binding. The taking of a wife is regulated by God's law, Matthew 19:3-9.
- b. A husband's love for his wife is to be the same type of love Christ showed for his church, Ephesians 5:25,28-33; Colossians 3:19.
- c. The husband is to dwell with his wife intelligently, I Peter 3:7 (Husbands, think about it: "...dwell with your wives.....that your prayers be not hindered."); Eccl.9:9.

DAY 3 A Husband is to be Faithful to his Wife.

- a. A husband will look to his wife to fulfill his need for love and companionship, and avoid fornication, a common temptation and sin, Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 5:15-23; Ephesians 5:28; I Thessalonians 4:3-7.
- b. The husband is to give that affection and love to his wife that he vowed to give to her at their marriage, I Corinthians 7: 2-5.

DAY 4 The Father is to Provide for His Family.

- a. The husband provides a home away from his parents for his wife, Genesis 2:24; I Timothy 5:8.
- b. He is to work at an honest trade to provide for the family, Genesis 3:17-19; Ecclesiastes 3:9-13; 5:18-20; Ephesians 4:28; I Thessalonians 4:10-12.

DAY 5 The Father is Responsible for the Spiritual Training and Attitudes of the Family.

- a. He will train his children to be faithful to God, Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-8; Proverbs 22:6; Psalms 78:5-7; 48:12-14.
- b. Abraham taught his household God's ways, Genesis 18:19.
- c. Joshua guided his family to worship God, Joshua 24:14-15.
- d. Eli failed to restrain his children, and God held him and the sons accountable, I Samuel 3:10-14; 4:15-18.
- e. What about a father who does right, but the children rebel? Ezekiel 18:1-20..
- f. What about the parents' responsibility to see that children learn about their own responsibilities that they will have when they reach adulthood? Sons need to learn a trade; daughters, Titus 2:4f.

LESSON 6

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: The Wife / Mother in the Home

**Memory Verse: "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing,
And obtaineth favor of Jehovah." - Proverbs 18:22**

DAY 1 A Good Wife is a Gift from God.

- a. God so made man, that a wife is needed by most. She was the final creation. She satisfied the specific needs of man, socially, physically, and spiritually, Genesis 2:18-25; I Cor. 11:7-10.
- b. A good wife becomes a gift of God to her husband, Proverbs 18:22; 19:14.

DAY 2 A Wife is Subordinate to Her Husband, I Corinthians 11:2-3, 8-12.

- a. This was a law from the beginning, Genesis 3:16.
- b. Eve, being deceived by Satan, brought this law, Gen.3:1-6; I Tim.2:11-15.
- c. A wife's lack of subordination to her husband is a most prevalent temptation and brings frequent warnings from the apostles, Col.3:18; Eph.5:22-23; Titus 2:5; I Peter 3:1-2.

DAY 3 The Wife's Place in the Home.

- a. **The wife is to guide the home, I Tim.5:14; this means a "worker at home," Titus 2:4-5.**
- b. **Foolish women destroy their home, Proverbs 14:1; 21:9, 19.**
- c. **Paul's description of a good wife is contained in the qualifications of church supported widows, I Timothy 5:9-16.**
- e. **She must not neglect her children, Titus 2:4. Explain "Bonding with children" ?**

DAY 4 A Woman's Conduct in Life.

- a. She is to love her husband and children, Titus 2:4-5; I Cor.7:2-5; "...without natural affection, Rom.1:31; II Tim.3:3.
- b. She is to be full of good works, Acts 9:36; Proverbs 31:20..
- c. Discreet and gracious (discreet means cautious, reserved, prudent), Proverbs 11:16, 22; 19:14.
- d. She should be humble and faithful to God, evidenced even by her daily behavior and manner of dress, I Peter 3:1-6; I Tim.2:9-10.
- e. She should be cautious with her influence so as not to cause her husband or children to sin, Nehemiah 13:26; Ezekiel 16:44-45; I Kings 21, esp. v. 25.
- f. Properly rearing her children, I Tim.2:15; II Tim.1:5; 3:15.

DAY 5 God's Beautiful Description of the Model Wife, Proverbs 31:10-31.

- a. Does this wife ever participate in any kind of secular business?
- b. Are all the activities described daily occurrences?
- c. What does her husband think about all these activities?

LESSON 7

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: The Parents Responsibility to the Children

Memory Verse: "Train up a child in the way he should go,
And even when he is old he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

DAY 1 A Child is Both a Gift and a Responsibility from God.

- a. Children are God's heritage and reward given to parents to care for and enjoy, Genesis 33:1-5; Gen.48:8-9; Psalms 127:3-5.
- b. Parents begin the child's body, but it is God who causes it to grow and gives it a soul, that it might be called his "offspring," Job 31:15; Psa. 139:13-16; Eccl. 12:7; Acts 17:29; Heb. 12:9.
- c. God demands that parents provide a proper home for their children, I Tim.5:8, 14; Titus 2:3-5.
- d. Parents should leave their children a heritage of a good name before wealth, Prov.22:1; II Cor. 12:14.

DAY 2 Parents Are Responsible for Their Children's Training.

- a. This responsibility comes from God, Ephesians 6:4.
- b. May parents seek and receive help in training children from others? Other institutions?
- c. Discuss the growth of Jesus in his childhood. See Luke 2:40, 52.
- d. Success is possible, but proper instruction must come from God's word. God's word is needed if one is to implant true wisdom in the mind of a child, Proverbs 3:13; 4:1-27; James 3:13-18.

DAY 3 The Child's Training.

- a. Children are to be taught to know the Father and the Son, Matt. 19:14; Deut. 6:6-7; Psa.78:5-7.
- b. Children must be taught to love, the greatest attribute of all. Children learn to love as they are loved by their parents. This teaches them to love and respect God properly, I John 4:7-21; Titus 2:4.
- c. Discipline or chastisement is an essential part of child training. Hebrews 12:5-11 "*Chastening (paideias)*. Old word from *piadeio*, to train a child (*pias*), instruction (II Tim.3:16), which naturally includes correction and punishment..." (A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. V, p. 435.) See also Proverbs 13:24; 15:5, 31-32; 19:18; 29:15, 17. Chastening prepares a child for life!

DAY 4 Warnings to Parents

- a. Do not deliberately anger your child, Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21.
- b. What results from provoking the child to wrath?
- c. Caution and wisdom should be used in answering and correcting children, Prov.15:1; 16:21.

DAY 5 Ask God's Help In Training Children..

- a. God had provided the best guide book available, II Timothy 3:14-17.
- b. Pray on behalf of your children, I Chronicles 29:19; Job 1:4-5.
- c. There is great reward for the successful parent, Proverbs 10:1; 15:20; 17:6; 27:11; 28:7; 29:3.

LESSON 8

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: The Children's Responsibility to Their Parents

**Memory Verse: "Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
And do not forsake your mother's teachings." - Proverbs 1:8 (NASV)**

DAY 1 Children are to Accept Their Parents' Instruction.

- a. Consider the instructions in Proverbs where the son is told to hear his father's teachings, Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; 13:1; 23:22.
- b. Children should be able to learn the way of the Lord from parents, Deut.6:20-25; II Tim.3:14-15.

DAY 2 "Children obey your Parents."

- a. This is one command that God has always required of young people, Ephesians 6:1-3; Col.3:20..
- b. Jesus set an example for children, Luke 2:41-51.
- c. If the requirements of the parents conflict with the will of God, then the young person who is old enough to be accountable must obey God rather than parents, Matthew 10:34-37; Acts 5:29.

DAY 3 "Honor thy Father and thy Mother.

- a. This command, under both the law of Moses and under the law of Christ, carries with it the prospect of a long life, Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3.
- b. Children are to see that the needs of their aged parents are met; that they are cared for, Mark 7:8-13; I Timothy 5:3-5, 8, 16.

DAY 4 Rebellious and Sinful Conduct of Young People is Condemned by the Lord.

- a. God does not tolerate rebellious children, Deut.21:18-21; II Kings 2:23-25; Romans 1:30; II Timothy 3:1-2.
- b. Under the law of Moses, a one who cursed or struck his father or his mother was put to death, Exodus 21:15, 17; Leviticus 20:9.

DAY 5 Prepare Early to Become a Christian.

- a. Realize that faith comes from hearing God's word and seek it from the Bible and from your parents, Romans 10:17; I John 2:13.
- b. Timothy is a good example of a faithful Christian who learned the scriptures from his mother and grandmother, II Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-17.

LESSON 9

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: Education of Children in the Home

**Memory Verse: "For he established a Testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel,
Which he commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children."
-Psalms 78:5**

DAY 1 God Gives the Duty of Educating Children to Parents.

- a. Parents jointly have the responsibility, Deut.4:9-10; 6:6-9; 21:18-21; Ps.78:5-7.
- b. The father is personally responsible, Proverbs 4:1-4, 20-22..
- c. The mother is personally responsible, Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; 30:17; 31:1-9; ITim.5.T0.

DAY 2 Essential Elements in Child Training.

- a. Parental Example - Children are imitators. Notice the evil examples of the Israelite mothers to their daughters, Ezekiel 16:44ff; Notice David's example to Solomon; I Kings 3:14.
- b. It is essential to give instruction from God's word, Deut.11:18-21; Ps.78:5-7.
- c. Applying correction, Proverbs 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15. This is not inconsistent with love, Proverbs 3:11-12, When done in harmony with God's will, Ephesians 6:4.
- d. Teach responsibility, Lamentations 3:27; Ecc1.12:1.

DAY 3 What to Avoid in Child Training.

- a. Injustice. The provoking a child to wrath, Col.3:21.
- b. Indulgence. The lack of firm discipline, Proverbs 29:15. Consider Eli, I Samuel 2:22; 3:11-14.
- c. Partiality. Isaac and Rebekah were each partial, Genesis 25:28, and it resulted in estrangement between Jacob and Esau, Gen.27:1-45.
- d. Inconsistency. The difference between what we say and what we do is noticed by our children, Matthew 23: Iff.

DAY 4 Provide Guidance in Morals.

- a. God's word speaks freely about sex and sets strict rules for mankind. Parents and children must know and respect God's laws on this subject. See Proverbs 5:15-23; 6:20-35; 7:1-27; Romans 1:24-28; I Cor.6:9-11; Eph.5:3-12; Leviticus 20:10-16.
- b. Children need to learn about immorality and proper conduct toward the opposite sex; duties of husbands and wives, I Cor.7:1-5; I Peter 3:7; Eph.5:22-33.
- c. God also demands honesty in business, Prov. 11:1,3; Eph.4:28; diligence in service, Eph.6:5-9; that we live honorable lives in the sight of all, II Cor.8:21, remembering God's rule concerning food and labor, Genesis 3:19; II Thess.3:10. An old Jewish proverb: "If you fail to teach a son a trade, you teach him to be a thief." What young man is ready for marriage until he learns this lesson? Proverbs 21:25; 26:13-16; 19:24; 20:4.

DAY 5 Children Need to be Taught what is Right and Wrong in the Sight of God.

- a. The untaught child has been wronged by those responsible for his education, Prov.5:23.
- b. The offspring of beasts usually mature in a year or two, but not so of the offspring of mankind. They mature slowly over a period of 20 or more years, thus demanding a permanent home relationship for the care and training of many siblings. It is little wonder, then, that Jesus declared, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." See Matthew 19:3ff.

LESSON 10

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: The Home and Recreation

Memory Verse: " Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals."

I Corinthians 15:33

DAY 1 Recreation is the Sole Responsibility of the Home.

- a. Recreation, needed in the normal development of a child, is included in the responsibilities of the parents, I Timothy 5:8.
- b. It is not the work of the church to provide recreation or social events, I Cor. 11:22, 34. The work of the congregation is to (1) provide worship and edification for members, I Cor. 14:4, 12, 26; (2) cause the gospel to be preached to the lost, I Thess. 1:7-8; Phil. 1:3-5; 4:14-16; (3) help relieve needy Christians, Romans 15:25-27; I Cor. 16:1-3; II Cor. 8 & 9. Secular business or education, entertainment, and recreation are not authorized works of the local congregation.

DAY 2 Rest and Relaxation is Good for All.

- a. To rest and enjoy the fruits of our labor is good, Eccl. 5:18-19; 3:1-4.
- b. Even Jesus and the apostles took periods of rest and relaxation, Mark 6:30-32.
- c. "Family Night" one night a week is suggested by some as a means of providing family participation in recreation and meeting some of the social needs of the children.

DAY 3 Seeking Entertainment is Not to be the Goal of Life.

- a. Those who do not seek first the kingdom sometimes devote their lives to seeking pleasure, II Timothy 3:1-5; I Corinthians 15:32; Proverbs 21:17.
- b. Pleasure, laughter, drinking, revellings, worldly music and dancing must not replace our responsibilities to God, Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35; Ecclesiastes 2:1-3, 8, 11; 12:13-14; I Peter 4:1-5; Matt. 6:33.

DAY 4 Caution Needs to be Applied to Entertainment.

- a. We must account for our time and assets as faithful stewards, Luke 12:42-48.
- b. Recreation and entertainment should not hinder our duties as Christians, such as causing us to miss the assemblies of the church, Hebrews 10:24-25. Or, visiting the sick and needy, Matt. 25:34-40
- c. We need to be considerate of others, Proverbs 23:1-3; 25:17; 26:18-19.
- d. It should not be suggestive of evil, I Thessalonians 5:22.
- e. Use caution that our pleasures do not cause others to stumble, Rom. 14:13, 19-23; I Cor. 8, 10:23-11:1.

DAY 5 Carefully Avoid Sinful Companions and Places!

- a. It is usually the evil companion that influences the other, I Cor. 15:33; Proverbs 1:10-19; 22:24-25; 23:6-8; 24:1-2.
- b. God will punish the evil person, Proverbs 6:12-15; Galatians 5:19-21.

LESSON 11

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: Dangers to The Home

Memory Verse: "Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body more than the raiment?" _____
-Matthew 6:25

DAY 1 Failure to Thank God or Put His Kingdom First.

- a. Serve God and do not be anxious for the things of this life, Matthew 6:24-34.
- b. We should be thankful and let the peace of God rule in our hearts, Col.3:15-17; Eph.5:18-20.
- c. The wrath of God is revealed against those who do not give God thanks, Romans 1:18-23.

DAY 2 Allowing Forms of Sin to Become Pleasure or Entertainment in Our Homes.

- a. We are to abstain from all forms and appearances of evil and "set no base thing" before our eyes, I Thess.5:21-22; Psalms 101:1-4; I Cor. 6:9-11.
- b. We should hate - not consent to - sin, Amos 5:14-15; Rom. 1:32. Jesus is our example, Heb.1:9.
- c. These are choices all of God's people must make, Heb.11:24-26. Did the influence of Moses' mother affect his choices? See Exodus 2:1-10.

DAY 3 Selfishness Among Family Members is a Great Danger.

- a. Husbands are to be as unselfish as was Christ. This applies to his time, recreation, etc., Eph.5:25-31. Family members should think of the needs, desires, and rights of others in the family.
- b. Principles that apply to the church members in relation to each other are amplified in the family, Ephesians 5:21; Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:3-4; I Corinthians 12:25-26.
- c. Members of the family who do not do their share are selfish and lazy, Prov. 10:4-5; 18:9.
A rancher told his hired hand, "Hiring you was like losing two good men."

DAY 4 The Peril of Meddlers and Gossipers.

- a. Many New Testament passages declare God's displeasure with these things, II Thessalonians 3:11-12; I Timothy 5:13; I Peter 4:15. These things destroy love, trust, and respect.
- b. The Old Testament equally condemns these things, Proverbs 11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 18:6-8; 26:20-22; 29:20; Lev. 19:16.
- c. Consider I Thessalonians 4:9-12 and how it might apply to a family.

DAY 5 Beware of the Influence of the Vile and Corrupt.

- a. We must never forget the dangers of this world, Philippians 2:14-15.
- b. We must avoid social activity with unfaithful Christians who refuse to repent, II Thess.3:6, 14-15; I Corinthians 5:9-11; II John 9-11; Romans 16:17-18.
- c. Beware of evil companionships and unequal yokes in business or social affairs, Proverbs 13:20; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1.
- d. We should control those who visit in our homes, Psalms 101:6-7.
- e. Consider the description of homes that have been destroyed, Proverbs 30:11-14.

LESSON 12

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: "Provoke Not...to Wrath"

Memory Verse: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord." - Ephesians 6:4

DAY 1 Problems Will Arise When Rearing Children.

- a. Many problems start away from home: peer pressure, movies, undisciplined use of automobiles, godless evolution now taught in schools, idle time, etc. All these things effect the way young people think and act today. Not all of it is evil or wicked but much of it is, Philippians 2:14-15.
- b. Since you cannot always be at your child's side, the child needs to have some "built in" restraints to help him/her make right choices on his/her own. -Heb.5:12-14.
- c. Do parents ever get angry or disagree with the child? Does this mean that the father has sinned?
- d. The instruction in Eph.6:4 is first negative: "provoke not..."
- e. Does this mean that parents are not to discipline children? Always let the child have his way? — **Prov.29:15**

DAY 2 Failure to Discipline is Destructive to the Child; Discipline Says to the Child that the Parent Cares, Proverbs 13:24. -(See Gary Kerr, *The Preceptor*, Apr.1996, p.7)

- a. In the 1950's through 80's Dr. Benjamin Spock's book, *The Baby Book*, a best seller on child-rearing, encouraged the parents not to spank or even say "no" to their children for fear that it might destroy their self esteem, but in recent years he has changed his ideas on corporal punishment. (Could it be that the Bible was right all along? See Proverbs 19:18; 23:13.)
- b. In the 1970's another best seller, *Dare to Discipline*, by James Dobson, encourages parents to exercise discipline in the child's life. But this idea is still rejected by some. We do not really need either of these books to tell us how to rear our children when we have the Bible!

DAY 3 How Parents Sometimes Provoke their Children to Wrath.

- a. Some parents are excessive in their commands and demand more than the child is capable of doing. Then the parents criticize the child for failure. Consider Matthew 25:14-15; Lk.12:47-48.
- b. Some parents place unconfirmed blame on the child which would be unjust.
- c. Some parents punish the child in a fit of anger, sometimes much more severely than should be done. Children often grow up thinking this is the way to treat their own children, becoming abusive parents!
- d. Parents should not be hypocritical. When the child does what he sees the parent doing and is then punished for it, it produces wrath and discouragement in the child, Colossians 3:21.
- e. It would be discouraging to a child to be burdened with little petty rules and orders given by the parent just to show who is boss (even though he is). Can you think of other things that might anger the child?

DAY 4 Set A Good Example.

- a. Would it be unusual for a child to say something like, "Daddy, when will I be old enough to stay at home and read the paper on Sunday morning"? Or, "Are we going to church today?"
- b. A good example brings forth good fruit, Proverbs 20:7; 31:28-31; Psalms 37:25-26; 112:1-3; II Timothy 1:5.

DAY 5 Notice the Positive Command in Ephesians 6:4...

- a. Nurturing is the full training of the child from infancy to adulthood, II Tim.3:14-17; 4:1-4.
- b. As W. R. Jones says, "Parents must think for their children until they can begin to think sensibly for themselves....(Proverbs 22:15)." - *The Preceptor*, April, 1996, page 5.

LESSON 13

Course Title: The Home

Lesson Title: Our Hope, the Eternal Home

**Memory Verse: "For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. -
- II Corinthians 5:1**

DAY 1 Christians are a Spiritual Family.

- a. God is our Father in heaven, Galatians 3:26ff; II Corinthians 6:1*^^:1; Ephesians 1:3-5. __—
- b. Jesus is our brother as well as our Saviour, Mark 3:31-35; Hebrews 2:11-12.
- c. We are brothers and sisters in the household of God, Galatians 4:4-7, 28; 6:10; Heb.3:5-6.

DAY 2 Jesus Taught that the Father Promised an Eternal Home.

- a. Jesus promised us a heavenly home if we believe and obey, John 14:1-3; I Peter 1:3-5; II Cor.5:1-9.
- b. Each soul's eternal home far exceeds the value of the whole world, Matthew 16:24-27.
- c. Paul desired to leave this home and enjoy the one God promises to all the saved, Phil. 1:21-24.

DAY 3 The Christian's Hope - An Eternal Home with the Father.

- a. Our hope is to inherit eternal life and live with God in heaven, Titus 1:2; 2:13; 3:7; II Thessalonians 1:6-10 (eternal separation from God for the rebellious).
- b. Our hope is based upon faith in and obedience to the gospel, Mark 16:15-16; Colossians 1:5; II Thess. 1:6-10; Hebrews 6:13-20; 11:1; Romans 15:4; 12:12; 8:24.
- c. Hope is something you desire and expect to receive based upon some kind of testimony or evidence. A heavenly home is something we desire and can expect to receive if we believe God's word and obey Him!

DAY 4 We will Receive a New Body to Enjoy in Our Eternal Home.

- a. We serve Jesus while in this body, Romans 12:1-2.
- b. We look forward to serving him in a new body in heaven, II Corinthians 5:1-10; Phil.3:20-21.
- c. Our new body will be a changed body, I Corinthians 15:35-58; I John 3:1-3.

DAY 5 The Glory of Heaven Is Described in Various Figures of Speech to Suggest to Us Something of Its Dazzling Beauty.

- a. The Apostle John wrote of the Revelation of Our Eternal Home, Rev.21:1-22:5.
- b. All the faithful shall receive a glorious crown, Rev.2:10; II Timothy 4:6-8;
- in a prepared place, Matthew 25:31-34;
- the salvation of the soul, I Peter 1:9.
- c. The heavenly home is a prepared place for a prepared people, Titus 2:11-14; II Peter 3:10-14.