

Women

Study #1: The Home

Introduction and testimonies (2 min or less)

"People would laugh if they knew that secretly I..."

Reason for lesson: "Even if you screw up all the way around, if you have a proper relationship w/ husband...OK!"

Gen 2:1-25

Why did God form man?

- Cultivate the ground.

Why did God create woman?

- So that man would not be alone, but would correspond to him, helping him in the tasks.

What kinds of restrictions did God place on the man and woman?

- WHY?
- Restrictions on food.
- Establish order, perhaps and freedom.
- How?

How, in our lives, do Biblical restrictions promote both order and freedom?

Gen 3:1-24

Before the fall, what was the state of the relationship between husband and wife? Perfect Unity and harmony.

Uninhibited freedom and unity.

After the fall, what is the state of that same relationship?

- Woman desiring place of man. (Gen 3)
- Enmity and strife. (Gen 27:1-10, 39:7-18, Deut. 24:1-4)

TRANSITION:

Man's struggle w/woman and visa versa is an age-old struggle, then, stemming from their disobedience to God and His plan. Through the ages, then, we have attempted to reach that perfect oneness again. For example, Unisex in dress and blurring of sexual roles. "I'll be more masculine and you be more feminine". I John 3:8 Undo the deeds of the devil. Establish a new order.

Lets take that order one step further and look at Col 3:18-20.

Who is head of the family unit?

- Husband.

What about the wife?

- Has been given Biblical authority to rule over the children. She sets the pattern for teaching the children to submit to her by her submitting to her husband.

What things do you think children learn by seeing a Godly husband /wife relationship lived out before them. Joel 2:25

QUESTIONS FOR WEEK 2:

Study: Gen 2:18-25; Prov. 12:4 Prov. 31:10-12; Eph 5:22-24; I Peter 3:1, 2 What do these verses say about a woman's responsibility to her husband?

Study: Gen. 20:1-4, 13 Abraham and Sarah.

Study: I Sam 1, 2 How are these marriage relationships an example to us? Negative and positive.

Study #2: The Woman as Wife

1. Understanding God:

Gen. 2:18 How does God describe the relationship between the husband and the wife?

- Good.

2. How? In what ways is that relationship good?

- Compatible.
- Physically fulfilling.
- Emotionally fulfilling.
- Spiritually fulfilling: each representing an aspect of God lost to the other.

3. If God created us distinctively; with distinct parts (male and female) and called it good, then what does that say about the roles that he has given us?

- Good also: Why? ...because it reflects His good nature.

4. What is the role outlined in Genesis 2 and 3, Eph. 5:22 and I Peter 3:1?

- Submission.

What is it? What does it mean?

Why is this issue so critical to my marriage?

- Because God says that our marriages are to reflect something deeper, more profound--the relationship between Christ and the church. A bigger picture than simply my puny little marriage.

5. UNDERSTANDING MY MOTIVES

a. What should be the proper reason for submission to my husband?

- Out of a deep desire to obey God.

Where does that deep desire come from?

- God himself places that desire in us to know Him more and more deeply and in my temptation to disregard His teaching, I must come face to face with that deeper conflict - Is there, stirring inside of me, a deep desire to live for Him which means obedience with sacrifice?

What would be some wrong motivations for submitting?

- To cause change in my husband.
- To make life easier.
- To have a happy home.

Why are these motivations wrong?

- Not God centered, but "me" centered.

6. Are there limitations to submission? In other words are there ever times when I should not submit? (Esther)

Look at Proverbs 31:11, 12a. My goal should be to do my husband good. There are sometimes when I need to stand in disagreement to him because it will not be doing him "good" to submit.

a. Submission is not something you "do" or "don't do". It's an inner attitude of my heart, which speaks of "who I am". Submission must first be to God who rules in all aspects of my life and then extends outward to my husband.

Questions for Next Week

Study:

Titus 2:4, Deut 6:4-7; Prov. 22:6

From these passages what is a woman's responsibility to her children?

What are some ways to accomplish these tasks?

Study #3: Answer Study Questions

1. Questions

A. Titus 2:4 responsibility to love my children.

- a. Where does the Love come from?
 - Some emotional love is inherent in us as women, but these verses seem to say that the right kind of love needs to be taught to us.
- b. What kinds of emotional love are acceptable?
 - Love that protects.
 - Love that gives.
 - Love that holds on to.
- c. How can these ways of loving be bad for my child?
 - Protection that cripples, producing insecurity and dependence.
 - Giving in such a way that feeds selfishness instead of selflessness.
 - Clinging in such a way that causes my child to cling back instead of reaching out.
- d. We could liken it to the kind of love that God has for us. What should be some of the characteristics in a Christian's life who has experienced God's love?
 - Strength of character.
 - Deep maturity.
 - Obedience.
 - Faith.
 - Stability, etc., etc.

2. Deut 6:4-7

A. Loving God should come first in my life, before my children, before my husband. God should reign in my heart as my first authority and then I should teach my children how to love God's law and to serve Him all his/her days.

- a. How? Practically:
 - Modeling.
 - Family devotions.
 - Prayer.
 - Personal devotions when child is of age.

B. Care needs to be taken that my home does not become "child centered". My first responsibility is still to my husband to cleave to him. The relationship with my child should not interfere with that.

- a. What are some ways that this could happen?
 - Community bed.
 - Others (from them).

3. Proverbs 22:6

A. I need to get to know my child and understand his "bent". Who he/she is and where his/her weaknesses are so that I can strengthen his/her weak bent and encourage him/her.

B. How can I do that?

- a. Spend time with him, talking w/him even when he can't talk
 - Playing together.
 - Reading together.

- Taking baths together.
 - Asking lots of questions.
 - SHARE SHARE SHARE - talking UP! Not down to child!
- b. Making sure my discipline is not arbitrary, so that it doesn't break the spirit, but makes him stronger as an individual, able to meet the winds of time and not be broken by those winds. (Discipline should break the will of the child so as to make him more teachable, able and ready to receive the will of the Lord and be conformed to Him, but not break his spirit bringing discouragement and frustration.
- C. God calls a child "the fruit of the womb." a gift. We need to view children in that same way.
1. A child is a good thing and deserves to have good things done to him/her.
 - Good food.
 - Good literature.
 - Good music.
 - Good discipline.
 - Good atmosphere.
 - READ FROM BOOK

Study #4:

1. What were some elements in the Garden that caused it to be a nurturing environment?

A. What do we mean by a nurturing environment?
 ...that which causes breeding, education, training; that which nourishes; fosters (promotes); to educate, bring up, train.

- B. What causes a nurturing environment?
1. God's presence.
 2. Chartered responsibilities given to each.
 3. Good food.
 4. Beauty to the eye.
 5. Order in the environment.
 6. Creativity encouraged.
 7. Natural talents and abilities used.
 8. Punishment for sin predetermined already by God (ratio of allowed to forbidden)
 9. The time and care that was taken to create the environment.
 10. Warmth.
 11. Balanced environment.
 12. Peace and tranquility (controlled).

C. Thinking of God as if He were like us, what does this tell us about God?

1. It took time and effort on His part (6 Days of creative work).
2. Shows us the creative nature of God.
3. Teaches us the great sacrifice of God to have a relationship with man.

2. What does the Garden of Eden teach us re: what our homes should look like?

3. How can we make that happen?
- A. I need to be present in my home.
 - B. There needs to be order in my home.
 - C. Time needs to be taken (thought) as well to create an environment of love, security and warmth.
 - D. Predetermined punishment for sin.

4. Likening my role in my home w/God's as the creator of Eden, what does this say about me and my position?
 It should be my job, my career, and should come before all other things. I need to be keenly aware of the other people in my home, using all the talents and abilities that I have to bring out the best in my family. I can only bring out the best when the best has been put in, in the first place.

Remember that education begins at home.
 I as a parent am a reflection to my child of God's nature.

THE WHAT OF IT:

A. Getting practical

Good food: a variety of it.

Responsibilities given to each member according to skills.

Beautiful things to see and touch: Plants, crafts, etc.

Order in the environment (An ordered home net not look like a dormitory, but can instead create the feeling of peace and tranquility. Likewise, homes that are child centered can promote a dormitory-like existence.

Encourage creativity by being open yourself: taking classes, reading, sewing, great hand-eye coordination skills taught (don't be afraid to learn!).

Take piano, voice, tap, violin, painting (even through T.V.), art classes: then create a use for them in your home.

Teach children how to make homemade play dough, and floral arrangements from summer flowers in garden, a salad using fresh vegetables. (Your library can be a valuable resource on How to)

B. Continued practical: Make home a stimulating place to be "creatively" (not necessarily expensively).

Find and encourage your child's natural abilities and encourage him/her to be open to "new" things as well.

Punishment for sin needs to be predetermined--thought out in advance so that a plan of action can be taken.

Lots and Lots of good books need to be available, purchased or checked out from the library and shared with the child.

Walks outside in the park. Time away from the pressure cooker of the home can sometimes stimulate conversation that otherwise might never take place.

Study #5: Loving Your Child

1. John 14:1

A. What is it about my belief in God that leads me to have an untroubled heart?

B. What does it mean to me when I think on the fact that God loves me?

a. I Peter 5:6, 7 I can trust Him to take care of me.

b. I Jn 4:18 I can live a life free from fear.

c. Jn 3:16 I can know my example that He gives the best he has. (James 3:17, 18)

d. Prov. 3:17, Rev 3:19 God proves his love to me by disciplining me. (Heb 12:6-11)

2. Lets look at God's code of discipline:

A. Gen 2:16, 17 How many "rules" did God lay down for the man?

Why? To test man? Let's see what he'll do.

Any promises for breach of contract?

What?

How immediate was the carrying out of it? With what consequences?

In other words is God TRUE to His word? YES!

B. What does that say about:

a. How many rules I should have?

b. Why I should have them?

c. How emphatically I should carry them out?

d. For whose benefit?

OVERDISCIPLINE: Read from Adams pgs 113-120

UNDERDISCIPLINE: NEXT WEEK!

3. Obedience is the key issue: WHY?

We've been created to live w/in a particular niche (Gen 1). The nature of man is to rebel against that niche--disobedience. Therefore if we are to live the abundant life as God intended, then obedience is crucial - must be reflexive from the heart.

Study #6:

I. I Thes. 5:14

A. How does this verse apply to child rearing?

B. What does it say about knowing my child?

C. How am I to deal with the unruly?

The fainthearted?

The weak?

D. In general, I am to exhibit what kind of attitude for all men?

E. How does applying the correct discipline to the correct need of the moment help my child and keep me from being frustrated as a parent?