

---

# GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

---

Topic: **FAMILY**

Lesson: **GENESIS 2:4-7,15-25**

---

**Goal:** to see that the institution of marriage is God's plan, not a man-made invention

1) Read Genesis 2:4-7 and Genesis 2:15-18

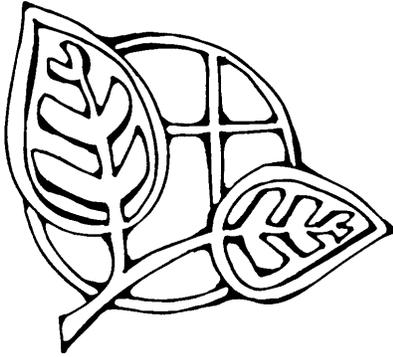
- In verse 17 underline the phrase “you will surely die.” In the margin write “Obedience to God = Life. Disobedience = Death.” Note that we are not told anywhere in Scripture that God gave these instructions to Eve. What did God obviously intend Adam to do?
- What adjective does God use to describe the various things he created in the following verses of chapter 1: verse 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31. Now look again at chapter 2, verse 18. What do we hear God say for the first time in the creation?
- Adam was living in Paradise. He was the master of all living creatures. And yet God says, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” What are some blessings that Adam would not experience as long as he was “alone”?
- What does the word “helper” tell us about God's purpose for bringing man and woman together in marriage? What does the term “suitable” tell us about God's intentions for the relationship between husband and wife?

2) Read Genesis 2:19-25

- What was God trying to show Adam by having all the animals come before him?
- God created Adam out of the earth, but he created Eve out of Adam. What point would this drive home for Adam and Eve? Did Adam understand this significance?
- The blessings of marriage are sometimes summarized as: companionship, children, and chastity. Does this lesson tell us which of those three is the primary blessing of marriage?
- In verse 23 underline the phrase, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” In the margin write, “This is the attitude of marital love.” In verse 24 underline “will leave” and “be united.” In the margin write, “Marriage involves: 1) leaving, and 2) cleaving.”

3) Applying what you've learned

- What does this lesson have to say to the following people?
  - Whenever Kristin has a problem, her husband James is one of the last people that she talks to. He is so consumed with work, Kristin doesn't think he listens to her. Instead, she calls one of her girlfriends or her sister.
  - Matt and Julie have recently found out they cannot have any kids. They are crushed. They feel like their marriage is not complete.



---

# GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

---

Topic: **FAMILY**

Lesson: **JOSHUA 24:1-15**

---

**Goal:** to see why we will want to keep God at the center of the family

1) Read Joshua 24:1-13

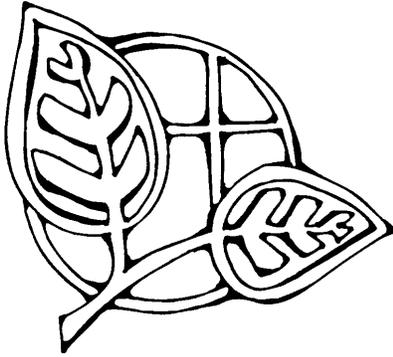
- In these verses the LORD, through Joshua, recounts the history of the Israelites all the way back to when God called Abraham to live in the land of Canaan. What is the purpose of this history review?
- The most significant portion of those verses is found in verse 2 and 3. Re-read those verses. Underline the portion of those verses that reads, "...worshiped other gods. But I took..." What was one of God's purposes in having Abraham move away in order to raise his family? Make note of this in the margin of your Bible.
- What are some events in your life that you might point to as evidence of God's goodness? Did your family play a role in your receiving these benefits?

2) Read Joshua 24:14-15

- "Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped." If your extended family has traditions or practices that get in the way of your worship of the LORD, what should you do with those traditions and practices?
- Joshua is referring to actual idols — false gods made of wood and stone. What are some modern idols we might need to throw away in our family?
- "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." What is the relationship between this statement and the first thirteen verses of this chapter?

3) Applying what you've learned

- Make a list of some basic ways that you and your household can serve the LORD. Share them with your family. Ask them to add ideas to the list.



---

# GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

---

Topic: **FAMILY**

Lesson: **PSALM 127**

---

**Goals:** 1) to see that raising a family without the LORD is futile  
2) to see that children are a blessing from God

1) Read Psalm 127:1-2

- In the margin next to verses 1 and 2 write, “None of our efforts will prosper without the LORD’s blessing.”
- Do you know any families that prosper (“build a house”) and avoid danger (“stand guard”) even though they have no relationship with the LORD? How long will that prosperity last? How long will the members of that family avoid danger?
- In 1 Timothy 5:8 Paul writes, “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” In the immediate context of that passage Paul is referring to caring for elderly parents or grandparents. In light of our lesson for today, what is another way a person could fail to “provide for” his family?

2) Read Psalm 127:3-5

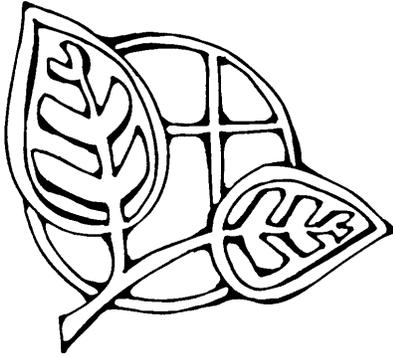
- What is the difference between a “reward” and a “heritage”? In what way do children serve as both of these things?
- “Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.” Put this statement together with the first part of the psalm, which we said demonstrates the importance of doing a job with the LORD. Why does a Christian feel that having children is a blessing?
- Does our society understand that children are a blessing? Point to examples from society to support your answer.

3) Applying what you’ve learned

- In Romans 10:17 Paul writes, “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

Does God make it the parents’ responsibility to create faith in the hearts of their children?

What is the only thing parents can do to provide spiritually for their children?



---

# GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

---

Topic: **FAMILY**

Lesson: **MATTHEW 19:1-9**

---

**Goal:** to understand the high honor that God expects us to give to marriage

1) Read Matthew 19:1-9

- Underline the phrase “for any and every reason.” In the margin write, “The Pharisees wanted to know if ‘no fault’ divorces were biblical.”
- In verse 7 the Pharisees say that “Moses commanded” divorce. In verse 8 Jesus corrects them: “Moses permitted” divorce because “your hearts were hard.” Look up Zechariah 7:12. What exactly is a “hardness of heart”?
- Underline the phrase, “What God has joined together, let man not separate.” Double-underline the word “man.” In the margin write, “No human, not even the couple, has the right to end a marriage.” Who alone has the right to end marriage? When does that happen?
- Jesus doesn’t define “marital unfaithfulness” in this portion of Scripture. Look up the following passages and tell us what they add to our understanding of marital unfaithfulness.

Hebrews 13:4 —

1 Corinthians 7:15 —

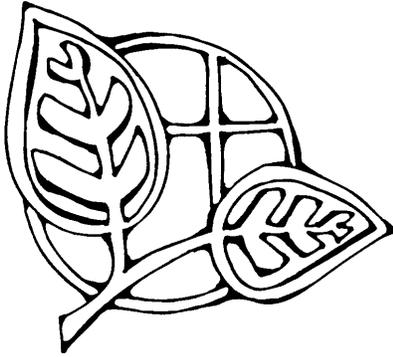
Malachi 2:16a —

2) Applying what you’ve learned

Consider the following situation. Jim would never consider cheating on his wife. He knows how much it would hurt her and does not want to put her through that. But Jim feels he has “needs” that his wife can’t satisfy. So he turns to pornography to meet those needs. “That isn’t really cheating,” he reasons.

Look up Matthew 5:27-30. Compare those verses to what you read in Matthew 19:6. Why would God consider a “wandering eye” and a “lustful heart” so offensive? What do Jim’s actions say to God?

How will Jim get past this problem? (Look up Acts 3:19-20 and Philippians 4:13 for help.)



# GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

Topic: **FAMILY**

Lesson: **EPHESIANS 5:21-6:4**

**Goal:** to see that God gives different roles to husband, wives, parents, and children

1) Read Ephesians 5:21-33

- Paul begins this section of Scripture by giving an over-arching instruction in verse 21. What is that instruction? Rephrase that instruction in your own words.
- Paul then instructs women to recognize their husband's "headship." In 1 Corinthians 11:3 Paul writes, "The head of Christ is God." How does that passage demonstrate that biblical "headship" does not mean "superiority" or "dominance"? What do you think headship means then?
- Why does the Church submit to Christ?
  - (a) Christ has won the complete confidence of the Church to be a perfect leader.
  - (b) The Church is Christ's slave.
  - (c) A lack of submission leads to punishment.
  - (d) Christ has motivated the Church to submit to him by showing unfailing love.

What does this tell us about a wife's submission to her husband?

- Paul instructs men to "love your wives, just as Christ loved the church." What are some adjectives you would use to describe the love that Christ has for the Church?
- Paul also writes, "Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body..." (verse 28). What is the logic behind this "selfish" reason for husbands to love their wives?

2) Read Ephesians 6:1-4

- What is the difference between a child obeying a parent and a child obeying a parent "in the Lord"?
- Why do children's obedience and a happy life go hand in hand?
- What does "exasperate" mean? What are some ways parents can exasperate their children? What specific instruction does God give to parents?

3) Applying what you've learned

- Some people would look at this portion of Scripture and say, "This is so old fashioned! It's foolishness." Therefore, try this exercise. List at least five specific ways a wife could submit to her husband. List at least five specific ways a husband could show Christ-like love to his wife. Now answer the following two questions.
  - 1) If couples made these ten things on your list regular habits in marriage, how much divorce would there be?
  - 2) When the things on that list aren't carried out, does the fault lie with God's plan?