

LESSON 1

"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE"

GOD'S WORD ON RAISING CHILDREN

Table of Contents

Lesson 1 "Except the Lord Build the House" 2

Lesson 2 "To Love Their Children ... an Heritage of the Lord" 6

Lesson 3 "Behold I Was Shapen in Iniquity" 10

Lesson 4 "Children, Obey Your Parents in the Lord" 14

Lesson 5 "Withhold Not Correction" 18

Lesson 6 "From a Child Thou Hast Known the Holy Scriptures" 22

Lesson 7 "Children Arise Up, and Call Her Blessed" 26

Lesson 8 "He That Gathereth in Summer is a Wise Son" 30

Lesson 9 "Reproofs of Instruction... Keep Thee From the Evil Woman" 34

Lesson 10 "We Will Serve the Lord" 37

PMC Publications
739 E. Lincoln Avenue
Myerstown PA 17067
Telephone: 1 (800) 789-6055

Lesson Aim: Child training begins with responsible parents. Responsible parenting begins with a knowledge of what God's plan is for each one in the home. As parents fill their God-ordained role, their stability and consistency provide a framework of security for growing children. The goal of this lesson is to highlight what God's Word outlines as the responsibility for fathers and mothers in the home.

HOW GOD BUILDS A HOME

Psalm 127

- 1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.
- 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

1. How do a father and mother show they believe God truly builds the home? _____

2. What are some ways the Lord builds a home? _____

Psalm 128

- 1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.
- 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.
- 3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.

5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

3. How does a Father's fear of the Lord contribute to a happy home life? _____

4. What are some blessings promised to the man who orders his life according to God's purposes? _____

GOD GIVEN ROLES FOR PARENTS

Ephesians 5

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as

Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

5. How can a wife know that she is submissive? _____

6. How does submissiveness on the part of the wife contribute to the development of a child's character? _____

7. How can a husband know he loves his wife? _____

8. How does faithful love on the part of the husband contribute to the child's development? _____

Ephesians 6

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

9. How might parents taking their God-given role contribute to children being willing to take their place? _____

10. Give some illustrations of parents who provoked their children to wrath through their carnality. _____

Colossians 3

18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

11. How does God feel when He observes a home where wives submit, husbands are forgiving, and children love and honor their parents? _____

Titus 2

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love

their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

12. What impact is left on a community when parents are faithful in their responsibilities in the home? _____

13. What are some challenges young women face as implied from this Scripture? _____

14. What are some challenges young men face? _____

DIRECTION FOR STRESSED MARRIAGES

1 Corinthians 7

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away

his wife.

12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

15. Give some reasons why a Christian should "stick it out" even if they are living with an unconverted spouse. _____

16. What are some ways a child can profit from a parent who is not a Christian? _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

17. What is the likely result of children who are raised in a home without structure? _____

18A. What are some warning signals that can be discerned in courtship of a man who is not ready to take the responsibilities of marriage? _____

LESSON 2

"TO LOVE THEIR CHILDREN...
AN HERITAGE OF THE LORD"

18B. What are some signals of an irresponsible woman? _____

19. What is going to be the reaping when a mother and father are so absorbed in their own problems and feelings that they ignore their children or act as if they don't have feelings worth considering? _____

20. How can the church help when it is apparent there is a home where mother or father is not fulfilling their role? _____

21. What should a parent do when he (she) feels the selfishness of his (her) spouse is having a detrimental effect on the children? _____

22. Explain how a parent's involvement in good things such as work or hobbies may have a detrimental effect in raising children. _____

23. What is going to be the outcome when parents are very strict one day and very lenient the next day because they are governed by their moods? _____

Lesson Aim: Our society as a whole resents having children, goes to great efforts to limit family size, and despises large families. After children are born, they are often neglected or abused. This lesson is to study what God-fearing parents believe about bringing children into the world and to encourage parents to love their

GOD'S COMMAND OF PROCREATION TO PARENTS

Genesis 1
28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 9
1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

7 And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

1. What are some other directions similar to this that God gave in the context of creation, and then following the flood that pertain to us today? _____

2. Why do so many "Christians" look at this as a suggestion rather than the will of God for His children? _____

GOD GIVES CHILDREN AS A GIFT, NOT A BOTHER.

Psalms 127
3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Psalms 113
9 He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD.

3. What is significant about the term "children of the youth"? _____

4. What is God's promise about children from full quiver families when the parents are walking in the ways of the Lord faithfully? _____

1 Timothy 2
15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in

childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

5. What help can be given to a woman who has an unnatural fear of child birth? _____

6. What should a courting age woman do if she resents the thought of bearing children? _____

7. What are some reasons carnal people give for limiting their family size? _____

CHILDREN ARE TO BE LOVED

2 Corinthians 12

14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you...

8. How will a child know when his parent is not seeking his but him? _____

9. How do we know the phrase "children ought not to lay up for the parents" does not mean children should not be taught to work and serve profitably for the family? _____

Titus 2

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

10. Why might young women need to be taught to love their children? _____

11. What is the effect on a young child who does not receive a mother's love? _____

Ephesians 6

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3

21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

12. How is spiritual nurture a demonstration of filial love? _____

13. The word "discouraged" literally means "without spirit". Explain the difference between a child which has his will broken, and a child that is spiritless because of spiteful treatment.

EXAMPLES OF PARENTAL LOVE

Genesis 22

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

14. How did Abraham demonstrate his love toward Isaac as he was leading him to where he was to be sacrificed?

Proverbs 4

3 For I was my father's son, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

15. How did the proverb writer discern his parents love toward him? _____

Matthew 7

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

16. Explain the proper balance of giving children gifts to show your love for them. _____

EXAMPLES OF PARTIALITY

Genesis 25

27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob *was* a plain man, dwelling in tents.

28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of *his* venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

17. How do you know Isaac and Rebekah's love for their children was a selfish love? _____

18. How did the partiality of Isaac and Rebekah complicate the lives of Jacob and Esau? _____

Genesis 37

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.

4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

19. Is it possible to treat each child alike? What should be a parent's goal in relating to different children? _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

20. What types of birth control are forms of abortion? _____

21. The New Testament teaches us that having an unwholesome attitude is the same as committing an unlawful act. Is it possible that despising an unwanted child might place one in the category of a murderer in God's eyes? (See 1 John 3:15) Explain. _____

22. What are the implications when a parent begins to love a child for his own sake rather than for the child's sake? _____

23. What are some guidelines to know when one should cease giving physical demonstrations of affection (such as a bedtime hug or a kiss) to children? _____

24. What are some special ways you have found to show your children that you love them? _____

LESSON 3

"BEHOLD, I WAS SHAPEN IN INIQUITY"

Lesson Aim: We relate to children upon the basis of our understanding of their nature. Many parents believe their children are basically good, and are hesitant to impose their will on them. Others teach the child is so helplessly depraved that he can make no good choices on his own. This lesson is intended to direct us in our relationships with our children based upon a Biblical

THE FIRST CHILD AND HIS HUMAN NATURE

Genesis 4

- 1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.
- 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
- 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.
- 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:
- 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.
- 6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?
- 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.
- 8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.
- 9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know

not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?

- 10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.
- 11 And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;
- 12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.
- 13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment *is* greater than I can bear.
- 14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, *that* every one that findeth me shall slay me.
- 15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.
- 16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

1. What does Eve's declaration "I have gotten a man from the Lord" reveal about her hopes at Cain's birth? _____

2. What caused Cain to turn out the way he did? _____

3. What are some expressions of Cain's depraved human nature? _____

4. How do we know Abel had the same sinful nature to deal with as Cain? _____

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DEPRAVED NATURE

Psalm 58

- 1 Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?
- 2 Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.
- 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.
- 4 Their poison *is* like the poison of a serpent: *they are* like the deaf adder *that* stoppeth her ear;
- 5 Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

5. Where does the evil of man's nature lurk? _____

6. When does a child begin to express his evil nature? _____

7. How do we know this evil nature can never be corrected by smooth and soothing words alone? _____

8. What are some evidences of the fallen nature as described in these verses? _____

Romans 3

- 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
- 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
- 13 Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:
- 14 Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:
- 15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:
- 16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:
- 17 And the way of peace have they not known:
- 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.
- 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Ephesians 2

- 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

9. What answer do you have for the individual who claims that someone who has done wrong deep down inside really wanted to do right? _____

10. How does the sin tendency affect a child's feelings about himself? _____

11. What responsibilities does a parent have to a child in light of this depraved nature? _____

12. How might the depraved nature even affect good or obedient deeds that a child does? _____

13. When an unrestrained child does not get his way his normal reaction is one of anger. Why? _____

THE END OF HUMAN NATURE LEFT TO ITSELF

Proverbs 23

- 13 Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.
- 14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

Proverbs 29

- 15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.
- 17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

14. What is the destination at which every child will finally arrive if he follows the natural inclination of his heart? _____

15. How does disciplining a child help to change this course? _____

JESUS' REGARD FOR CHILDREN

Mark 10

- 13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and *his* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*.
- 14 But when Jesus saw *it*, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.
- 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.
- 16 And he took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them.

16. What was Jesus' attitude toward little children? _____

17. What statement did Jesus make that reveals to us that little children are safe in Jesus' care? _____

18. See Matt 18:5. What attitudes must we possess in order to receive Christ? _____

19. What are some ways we may be guilty of hindering little children from coming to Jesus today? _____

Romans 7

9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

20. Recognizing the sinful nature of the child, what does it mean that the child has a light that lights him from within? _____

John 1

8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.

9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

21. How should a parent respond when a report is brought that his child is involved in doing something that the parent has never seen the child do before? _____

22. Should Christian parents ever teach their children that if they do wrong they will go to hell? _____

23. How does proper discipline help a child with his depraved nature? _____

24. What answer would you have for someone from the Presbyterian church who told you that unbaptized babies go to hell? _____

25. How should parents relate to a young child who becomes a victim of his emotions? (For example, if he becomes preoccupied with fear, or guilt, beyond what would be considered normal.) _____

LESSON 4

“CHILDREN OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD”

Lesson Aim: Children are born with the tendency to listen to their own will, and to not listen to outside counsel, warnings or commands. Parents’ first responsibility is to teach the child to listen, or hearken to their commands. Children must be trained to obey without question. This can be done only by bringing their will into subjection. This lesson highlights the importance of teaching a child to listen and obey when he is given direction.

THE LAW AND THE REBELLIOUS CHILD

Deuteronomy 21

18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *that*, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard.

21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

1. Who has the first responsibility to make a child listen? _____

2. What are some other characteristics that go along with a child that will not listen? Why? _____

3. Why is it so important that the children in our churches be taught to listen? _____

THE ADVANTAGES OF HEARING REPROOF

Deuteronomy 4

1 Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do *them*, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 17

12 And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel.

13 And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.

4. What are some forms of disobedience? _____

5. The Law pronounced very serious judgement upon a man who refused to listen to the authority of the land. How do you think a person could get to the place where he would refuse to listen to a judge? _____

Proverbs 1

7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

9 For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Proverbs 9

7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man getteth* himself a blot.

8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

9 Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

Proverbs 12

1 Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof *is* brutish.

6. Give some of the titles that apply to a man who has not learned to listen to anything but his own will. _____

7. You have met a young man only occasionally. How would you be able to discern if he is a wise man or a fool? _____

Proverbs 23

19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.

22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him.

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

8. How does a child who has been taught to listen respond when he finds himself among the wrong kind of friends? _____

9. What rewards do parents have when they are older if they have taught their children to listen when they were young? _____

Proverbs 30

11 *There is* a generation *that* curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

12 *There is* a generation *that are* pure in their own eyes, and *yet* is not washed from their filthiness.

13 *There is* a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

14 *There is* a generation, whose teeth *are as* swords, and their jaw teeth *as* knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from *among* men.

17 The eye *that* mocketh *at his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

10. What are some expressions that go along with a rebellious child that a child that is in submission does not have? _____

11. What are the consequences for a child that has lived a life of rebellion? _____

AN EXAMPLE OF A YOUNG MAN WHO WAS NEVER TOLD "NO".

1 Kings 1

5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also *was a* very goodly *man*; and *his mother* bare him after Absalom.

7 *And* he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped *him*.

12A. What was the final end of Adonijah? _____

12B. How does that fit in with the lack of training he had received when he was young? _____

13. How could Joab and Abiathar have known it was going to be a mistake to give Adonijah their support? _____

CHILDREN ARE TO OBEY

Ephesians 6

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Colossians 3

20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

14. In what way is this command a commandment with promise? _____

15. Is there ever a time when a child

would have the right to disobey a Christian parent? _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

16. How can a parent train his child to listen and obey the first time he is told something? _____

17. How can a person learn to be wise who realizes he was never taught to listen when he was a child? _____

18. What are some reasons why parents may not insist on obedience from their children? _____

19. How can parents discern their child is rebellious even though outwardly he is obeying? What should their response be in such a situation? _____

20. What should a parent's response be when his child talks back or says "no" when he is told to do something? _____

21. How do children who have been taught to listen cheerfully have an advantage over children who have not been made to obey? _____

22. How would you answer someone who feels you are suppressing a child's creativity when you make them hearken to your commands? _____

LESSON 5

“WITHHOLD NOT CORRECTION”

Lesson Aim: There is a prevalent teaching today that children should not be forced to do anything, and if they do wrong, one should never punish them with a spanking. The feeling is this will teach children to be violent, and learn to settle their problems with force. Is this what God’s Word teaches? This purpose of this lesson is to discover God’s way to make a child listen, and to relieve his guilt when he has done wrong.

USING CHASTISEMENT IN RAISING CHILDREN

- Proverbs 13
- 24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.
- Proverbs 19
- 18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

1. What do the phrases “betimes” and “while there is hope” imply about child training? _____

2. Why should not an adverse reaction such as crying divert a parent from performing his duty when a child needs discipline? _____

- Proverbs 22
- 6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
- 15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive

- it far from him.
- Proverbs 23
- 13 Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.
- 14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.
- Proverbs 29
- 15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.
- 17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

3. Explain the difference between a parent training his child and a child training his parent. _____

4. Explain the connection between disciplining a child and delivering his soul from hell. _____

5. What are the advantages of using a

God’s Word on Raising Children “Withhold not Correction”

rod for discipline rather than your hand? _____

6. What advantages does a well disciplined child have over one who is left to himself? _____

7. Contrast consistent discipline that gives rest, with conflicts with the child that only create more tension and turmoil. _____

LESSONS FROM GOD’S CHASTISEMENTS

- Job 5
- 17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:
- 18 For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.
- 19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

7. Who should be the one to comfort a child after he has been disciplined? Why? _____

- Hebrews 12
- 5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:
- 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he

- receiveth.
- 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
- 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
- 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
- 10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.
- 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

8. What do disciplined children know, that undisciplined children wish they knew? _____

9. How do children who are disciplined treat their fathers? Why? _____

10. How can a person be exercised by chastisements and thus become fruitful by them? _____

A FATHER WHO NEGLECTED DISCIPLINE

- 1 Samuel 1
- 22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they

- lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
- 23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.
- 24 Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.
- 25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.
- 27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?
- 28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel *to be* my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?
- 29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded *in my* habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?
- 30 Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed *that* thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.
- 31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.
- 32 And thou shalt see an enemy *in my* habitation, in all *the wealth* which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.
- 33 And the man of thine, *whom* I shall not cut off from mine altar, *shall be* to

- consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.
- 34 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.
- 35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which *is* in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.
- 36 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left in thine house shall come *and* crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.
- 1 Samuel 3
- 11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.
- 12 In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.
- 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

11. What might have been the personal reason why Eli was slow to discipline his sons? _____
- _____
- _____
12. How did Eli's laxness in discipline affect the nation of Israel? _____
- _____
- _____
13. How did Eli's laxness in discipline affect his own enjoyment in his

retirement years? _____

Questions For Thought and Discussion

14. How is a parent to know when to begin physical discipline on a small child? _____
- _____
- _____
15. Discuss the appropriateness of punishing a child when he claims he did not know what he was doing was wrong. What if this seems to be an excuse? _____
- _____
- _____
16. What are some signals that physical discipline is not working? _____
- _____
- _____
17. What are some reasons why spankings might not seem to be accomplishing that for which they are intended? Are there some children discipline just doesn't work with? _____
- _____
- _____
18. What should a parent do if he realizes he is feeling angry at his child when the child needs discipline? _____
- _____
- _____
19. How can a child be trained to stand still to accept a spanking when he needs one? _____
- _____
- _____

LESSON 6

“FROM A CHILD THOU HAST KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES”

Lesson Aim: Children need an anchor in life. They will face many discouraging and exhausting experiences that will test their inner fibre to its limits. A child who is taught the principles of the Word of God, has a resource that can guide him regardless of the tests he faces. This lesson is designed to give parents practical help in how to teach their children about God and His Word.

WHY CHILDREN NEED SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 4

- 10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.
- 11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.
- 12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.
- 13 Take fast hold of instruction; let *her* not go: keep her; for she *is* thy life.

1. Give some practical way that Biblical training may add to the years of a child's life. _____

2. How does a child with Bible knowledge have liberty a child ignorant of the Scriptures does not have? _____

Proverbs 6

- 20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
- 21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, *and* tie them about thy neck.
- 22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.
- 23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

3. What responsibility does the child need to take for his response to moral instruction? _____

4. How does biblical instruction “lead”, “keep” and “talk with” a child in his decisions of life? _____

2 Timothy 3

- 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned

them;

- 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

5. What is the value of giving a child Bible knowledge before he is a Christian? _____

2 Timothy 1

- 4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;
- 5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

6. What does “unfeigned faith” mean? How did Timothy have an advantage in this? _____

Genesis 18

- 17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;
- 18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?
- 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he

hath spoken of him.

7. What special trait qualified Abraham for a special relationship with God? _____

METHODS OF INSTRUCTING CHILDREN

Deuteronomy 4

- 9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;
- 10 *Specially* the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.

8. What connection is there between taking heed to ourselves that we do not forget and teaching our children the ways of God? _____

9. What does a father tell his family when he neglects to lead them in family worship and moral instruction? _____

Deuteronomy 6

- 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
- 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou

walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

20 And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What *mean* the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?

21 Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:

22 And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:

23 And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.

24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as *it is* at this day.

25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

10. How can a father or mother find occasions to teach their children whether walking, lying or rising up? _____

11. What are the types of things fathers should tell their children in order to teach them about God? _____

Joshua 4

21 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their

fathers in time to come, saying, What *mean* these stones?

22 Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.

23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:

24 That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

12. What are some "stones" we can use to teach God's ways to our children? _____

Psalm 71

16 I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, *even* of thine only.

17 O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto *this* generation, and thy power to every one *that* is to come.

13. How did the Psalmist intend to show the upcoming generation God's strength? _____

Proverbs 22

6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

14. In what ways does moral instructing and training never depart from a child?

similitude of a palace:

13 *That* our garners *may be* full, affording all manner of store: *that* our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets:

14 *That there be* no breaking in, nor going out; *that there be* no complaining in our streets.

15 Happy *is that* people, that is in such a case: *yea*, happy *is that* people, whose God *is* the LORD.

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM WRONG INFLUENCES

Psalm 144

11 Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood:

12 That our sons *may be* as plants grown up in their youth; *that* our daughters *may be* as corner stones, polished *after* the

15. What should a parent do if he sees his child begin to choose companions who are an evil influence? _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

16. What are some ways to begin giving a small child spiritual training? _____

17. What are some pointers for a meaningful family worship? _____

18. What are some ways we can help our children begin to think about God and heaven? _____

19. Discuss the expected result if parents endeavor to leave an impression that they have a spiritual home, but are very carnal in their relationships. _____

LESSON 7

“CHILDREN ARISE UP, AND CALL HER BLESSED”

Lesson Aim: Children are very selfish by nature. As they think of their own needs, they naturally care very little for how others may feel. This lesson is to identify the respect and manners that children should be taught.

HONOR AND RESPECT FOR PARENTS

- Exodus 20
12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- Exodus 21
17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.
- Mark 7
9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.
- 10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:
- 11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is* Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free.*
- 12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;
- 13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.
- Proverbs 23
22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.
- Proverbs 30
11 *There is a generation that curseth their*

- father, and doth not bless their mother.
- 12 *There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.*
- 13 *There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.*
- 14 *There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.*

- Proverbs 31
28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.

1. What are some expressions of children who respect and honor their parents? _____

2. What are some current expressions of children cursing their parents? _____

3. Give some reasons why children would be tempted to dishonor their parents. _____

HONOR FOR THE AGED

- Leviticus 19
32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I *am* the LORD.
- 1 Timothy 5
1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren;
- 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

4. What attitudes must we possess in order to inspire children to respect the aged? _____

HONOR FOR THE HANDICAPPED OR DISADVANTAGED

- Leviticus 19
14 Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I *am* the LORD.
- 15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: *but* in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.
- Deuteronomy 27
18 Cursed *be* he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen.
- 19 Cursed *be* he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

5. What are some special considerations that should be extended toward the handicapped? _____

RESPECT FOR LEADERS AND THOSE IN AUTHORITY

- Exodus 22
28 Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.
- Isaiah 3
4 And I will give children *to be* their princes, and babes shall rule over them.
- 5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.
- 8 For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings *are* against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.

6. Why is a lack of respect and manners a sign of spiritual poverty? _____

- 1 Timothy 5
17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.
- 1 Peter 5
17 Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.
- 1 Thessalonians 5
12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
- 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.
- 2 Kings 2
23 And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go

up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.

24 And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

7. What common courtesies indicate respect toward church leaders? _____

8. How can we instill respect for men of authority in spite of what appears to be deficient character? _____

9. How might have the actions of the children in Elisha's day reflected failures on the part of the parents? _____

REVERENCE FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD

Leviticus 19

30 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: *I am* the LORD.

Leviticus 26

2 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: *I am* the LORD.

10. What are some general rules parents should have for their children while at church? _____

11A. What should a person do if they observe someone else's child misbehaving at church and it appears the parents of that child do not care? _____

11B. What about if they sense the parents are unaware of the disrespect? _____

TEMPERANCE AND SELF DISCIPLINE

Proverbs 23

2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou *be* a man given to appetite.

19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.

12. How do table manners fit in with temperance and self discipline? _____

13. What are some table manners that ought to be taught to children? _____

Question for Thought and Discussion

14. How important is it for children to learn manners as habits? How can this be done? _____

15. How should parents relate to their child when he refuses to express a common courtesy? _____

16. How can we help our children respect the property of others? _____

LESSON 8

“ HE THAT GATHERETH IN SUMMER IS A WISE SON”

Lesson Aim: The Scriptures teach us that while it should not be our goal to be wealthy, one measure of our character is how we relate to material goods. The child’s nature is to be slothful, selfish and wasteful with goods. These tendencies all need to be replaced with Biblical virtues and values. This lesson is to

HOW A CHILD’S PRUDENCE AFFECTS HIS PARENTS

Proverbs 10

5 He that gathereth in summer *is* a wise son: *but* he that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son that causeth shame.

Proverbs 19

26 He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away *his* mother, *is* a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

1. What can a father do to teach his children diligence and frugality? _____

1 Timothy 5

4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

2. What are some ways parents can prepare children to take their responsibility in caring for them when they have need? _____

MATERIAL VIRTUES THAT MUST BE TAUGHT: DILIGENCE

Proverbs 6

6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

3. What are some work projects that children can do to realize a material gain? _____

4. What are some work projects for which they should not receive wages? _____

5. What are some lessons from the ant that children need to learn? _____

Proverbs 13

11 Wealth *gotten* by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

Proverbs 20

4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

6. How can we identify the sluggard excuses of our children? _____

Colossians 3

23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

7. How can children be motivated to enter into work enthusiastically? _____

PRIORITIES

Psalms 37

16 A little that a righteous man hath *is* better than the riches of many wicked.

8. What are the qualities of a righteous man that makes his poverty better than his neighbor’s riches? _____

Proverbs 11

28 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool *shall be* servant to the wise of heart.

9. What expressions of parents teach their children not to trust in riches? _____

10. How can children be taught the fleeting vanity of riches? _____

Proverbs 23

4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Luke 18

24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

11. What are some warning signals whereby a parent may know that materialism is winning the heart of his child? _____

TITHING

Proverbs 3

9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new

wine.

12. When and how much should children tithe? _____

SHARING

Deuteronomy 15

10 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Proverbs 13

7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches.

Proverbs 19

17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

13. What attitudes should our children sense in us as they observe us relating to those who are less fortunate? _____

14. What are some noble ways to make ourselves poor? _____

CONTENTMENT

1 Timothy 6

5 ...men.. destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw

thyslf.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Philippians 4

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

15. Why is it difficult to teach children contentment? _____

16. How can children be taught the difference between necessities and wants? _____

17. How does godliness increase the worth of contentment? _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

18. What is a good way to relate to a child's income? How much should they save? How much should they tithe? How much should they give to their parents? _____

19. How can parents guard themselves from being selfish towards their children's finances, time, etc? _____

LESSON 9

“REPROOFS OF INSTRUCTION... KEEP THEE FROM THE STRANGE WOMAN”

Lesson Aim: Permissiveness abounds without, and evil tendencies lurk within. Many a young person has been shipwrecked upon the boulder of moral failure, often within the confines of the home or family. Parents often feel unqualified to speak to such a private subject. This lesson is to instruct parents how to give moral instruction that children need to promote choices of purity.

EXAMPLE OF MORAL TEACHING

Proverbs 6

- 20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
- 21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.
- 22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.
- 23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:
- 24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.
- 25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.
- 26 For by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.
- 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
- 28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?
- 29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.
- 30 *Men* do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;
- 31 But *if* he be found, he shall restore

sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

- 32 *But* whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul.
- 33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.
- 34 For jealousy *is* the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.
- 35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

1. What is the best way to prepare young people for the wicked enticements they will face in society today? _____

2. With which aspect of moral impurity did this father begin? _____

3. How does a parent's instruction of facts of a moral nature differ from that

of the world's? _____

2 Timothy 3

- 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

4. What are some advantages of parents telling children the facts of life rather than they needing to learn these things through other sources? _____

PROTECTING THE CHILD FROM MORAL DEFILEMENT

1 Corinthians 15

- 33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.
- 34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.

5. What avenues of communication will destroy the good manners of our children? _____

Titus 1

- 15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.
 - 16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.
- 1 Thessalonians 5
- 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

6. How can we direct the minds of unconverted children into the ways of purity? _____

7. What are some ways we can protect the innocent and pure children from depraved minds and yet not have them lose their trust for others? _____

8. What are some activities between children that will defile the moral relations and reserve of the home? _____

9. What can be done to restore a child who has been molested? _____

THE BENEFIT OF MODEST APPAREL

1 Timothy 2

- 9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with shamed hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
- Matthew 5
- 27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:
 - 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

10. What are some of the benefits of providing modest apparel for our children? _____

11. What are some practical directions that should be given to our children to preserve modesty? _____

DIRECTING PURITY IN YOUTH

! Thessalonians 4

3 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

6 That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto

uncleanness, but unto holiness.
 8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

12. Give some practical direction how a father can help his son "possess his vessel in sanctification and honor". _____

13. Give some practical direction how a mother can help her daughter "possess her vessel in sanctification and honor". _____

14. What kind of standard should parents expect from their youth when they begin to court? _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

15. What precautions need to be observed lest a child's purity is lost as they learn the facts of life? _____

16. How can parents help their children from falling into habits of lust and self abuse? _____

17. What are some guidelines for reading books that will promote a well rounded out mind and yet protect against immoral material? _____

LESSON 10

"WE WILL SERVE THE LORD"

Lesson Aim: Our American culture is marked by selfish independence. Even many who teach family values, hold their own homes up as an end in itself. This lesson is intended to inspire our homes to have the vision of being of service to God and the community through the Christian church congregation.

THE HOME IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Joshua 24

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

1. How could Joshua allow his children to develop their own individuality if he had determined they were going to serve the Lord? _____

1 Timothy 3

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the

church of God?)

2. How does a faithful family add dimension to a leader's effectiveness? _____

1 Corinthians 16

15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with *us*, and laboureth.

19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

3. How do you think a household acted that had addicted themselves to the ministry of saints? _____

4. What commendation did they receive? Why? _____

Galatians 6

- 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

5. What are some activities of Christian service that every family should extend to their communities? _____

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY AND SACRIFICE AS A WAY OF LIFE

Genesis 37

- 13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed *the flock* in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here *am I*.
- 14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

6. How did Joseph's faithfulness to his father's assignment prepare him for the unknown venture into which he was about to enter? _____

7. How can parents help their children develop faithfulness and dependability when given responsibility? _____

John 6

- 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

8. What virtue had the little child learned that enabled him to be of service and receive a great blessing on this special day? _____

Matthew 19

- 16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?
- 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.
- 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,
- 19 Honour thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- 20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?
- 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.
- 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

9. What hindered this man from entering into a life of Christian service? _____

10. What are some signs that

materialism may be hindering our youth from involvements in service opportunities? _____

GIVING CHILDREN IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1 Samuel 1

- 22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.
- 23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.
- 24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.
- 25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.
- 26 And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, *I am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.
- 27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:
- 28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

11. In what way are children "lent to the Lord"? _____

12. In what sense are children lent to us? _____

Psalms 127

- 4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth.
- 5 Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

13. What are some parallels between the arrows of a hunter, and children raised for the Lord? _____

Luke 2

- 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
- 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.
- 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.
- 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
- 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.
- 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

14. In what way did Mary and Joseph help awaken the call of the "Father's business" in Jesus' life? _____

15. How might parents hinder children from entering into places of service and responsibility? _____

Questions for Thought and Discussion

16. Give some qualifications that should be met before we permit our children to venture out into voluntary service activities. _____

17. When are children old enough to leave home for a call to Christian service? _____

18. What are some benefits of the entire family being involved in a community service activity rather than only young people? _____
