

Biblical Family Life

Ozark 2 Family Camp 2017

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Biblical Family Life

- Session #1 – Marriage Dynamics
- Session #2 – Threefold Growth in Marriage
- Session #3 – The Christian Home
- Session #4 – Satan’s Attack on the Family

Marriage Dynamics

Session #1

God's Design for Marriage

1. God originated marriage, thus His law governs it (Gen. 2:23-24).
2. God's purpose for marriage is primarily companionship (Gen. 2:18).
 - Godly companionship defeats loneliness.
3. God's secondary purpose for marriage is godly children (Mal. 2:15).

God's Design for Marriage

4. God design for marriage was a new one person relationship (Gen. 2:23-24).
 - Becoming the right person vs. finding the right person.
 - Consider your spouse's interests before your own and as your own.
 - Enjoying full disclosure with your spouse.
 - Having eyes for her (no elevator eyes or porn, which are forms of fornication – Matt. 5:28)

God's Design for Marriage

5. God's design for companionship requires *commitment* and *intimacy*.
- Prov. 2:16-17: *Alluwph* means “familiar with,” describes a friend or an ***intimate*** relationship.
 - Mal. 2:14: *Chabereth* means “knit together in association,” as a faithful friend/***committed*** companion.
 - Marriage vows are an unconditional pledge to give to one's spouse for life – **even if he/she does not**.
 - Romance is the privileged outcome of a marriage fostered in **intimacy** and **commitment**.

God's Design for Marriage

6. God's desires Christ to be the head of the marriage union (Matt. 10:35-39, 22:37; Rev. 2:4).
 - If Christ is your first love, your fellowship with Him will draw your believing spouse to you.
 - Love Triangle: Christ – Husband - Wife

7. God considers the marriage covenant a life-long vow to Him (Prov. 2:16-17; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 19:6).
 - The imagery of Genesis 15:7-17 presents death as the penalty for breaking a covenant with God.

The Husband's Roles in Marriage

- Humanly speaking, God considers men and women as equals (1 Cor. 11:11; Gal. 3:28; Gen. 2:21).
- However, the husband, not the wife is commanded by God to lead the family (Tit. 2:5; 1 Cor. 11:3; Col. 3:18; 1 Pet. 3:1; Eph. 5:23; Gen. 3:16)?
- In God's design for the family the husband is to lead, provide, protect, and oversee his family.

Exercising Biblical Authority

Lesson from Exodus 4:25:

Moses in route to Egypt with his family.

- Our own house must be in order before we can be effective in serving the Lord outside the home.
- Moses had compromised, what he knew was right to keep peace in the home, but he angered God – God held him responsible.

The Wife's Roles in Marriage

- A wife is not to lead her husband, but to be his helper (Gen 2:18).
- A wife is to be the keeper of the home, at home, to prevent Satan establishing a beachhead of chaos (Tit. 2:4-5; 1 Tim. 5:14)?
- A wife and mother will experience the most joy in helping her husband, nurturing her children, and keeping the home orderly – this was God's best intentions for her (1 Gen. 2:18; 1 Tim. 2:15; Titus 2:4).

The Wife's Roles in Marriage

- A wife is to be submissive to her husband as unto the Lord – this includes two components:
 - a. **Respect** for his position of authority (Eph. 5:33).
 - b. **Obedience** to his direction (Eph. 5:24).
 - Army saying: “Salute the uniform, not the man.”
- God does not authorize disobedience to His Word (1 Jn. 3:4-10; Acts 5:29).
- Subjection of believing wife may lead her unsaved husband to salvation (1Pet. 3:1).
- Subjection is not passive; it is helpful and God-honoring: wife provides input freely and respectfully.

Loving Leadership Prompts Devotion

Lessons Learned from Isaac and Rebekah's marriage:

1. Successful when Isaac loved Rebekah (Gen. 24:67) and Rebekah respected Isaac (Gen. 24:63-65).
2. Unsuccessful when Isaac did not love Rebekah sacrificially and execute poor leadership (Gen. 26:6-10; 27:1-4), and Rebekah usurped Isaac's authority.
3. Ephesians 5:33: Husbands are to sacrificially love their wives and exercise spiritual headship; wives are to submit and respect their husbands: **Sacrificial spiritual authority – willful submission and respect.**

Threefold Growth
in Marriage
Session #2

Three Levels of Growth

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23-24).

- Spirit – pursuing Christ together
 - Soul – emotionally entangled together
 - Body – mutual satisfaction
- The husband is to serve his wife with tender leadership in these areas of growth!

Leadership at the Spiritual Level

- Have a daily personal quiet time.
 - Regularly initiate prayer with your wife.
 - Invest in the spiritual growth of your children.
 - Conduct regular family devotions.
 - Share the Word with your wife (Eph. 5:26).
 - Attend the *normal* meetings of the Church (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:25).
- Children should never wonder about commitment.

Emotional Leadership – Soul Level

- Have regular “date nights” with variety.
- Set aside time for quality interaction/listening.
- Learn your wife’s: fears, needs, expectations.
- Affirm significance and security (notes/words).
- Serve your wife (little things mean a lot).
- Remove behaviors that hinder intimacy: sin, selfishness, pride, lack of discipline, etc.
- Manipulation Straggles Marriage Intimacy

Behaviors That Hinder Intimacy

1. **Affixing Guilt** – Being either judge or martyr to affix guilt rather than actual accountability.
2. **Filibustering** – Limiting equal communication and not really listening.
3. **Generalizing** – Universalize an issue without focusing on important specifics.
4. **Analyzing** – Coldly intellectualize a problem such that no feelings are expressed.

Behaviors That Hinder Intimacy

5. **Gunnysacking** – Internalizing anger over undealt with grievances.
6. **Raging** – blowing up instead of using clean anger to further righteousness.
7. **Blaming** – Finding fault/causing anxiety without taking responsibility; no caring atmosphere to promote growth.
8. **Questioning** – Use clever or concealed questions instead of statements.

Behaviors That Hinder Intimacy

9. **Triangling** – Bringing other people into the situation to give you support.
10. **Put-downs** – Using sarcasm (a joke with a hook) and digs rather than honest humor.
11. **Mind-raping** – Read or rape the other's mind rather than to listen, wait, and learn.
12. **Delaying** – Ignore, forget, postpone rather than honor commitments to talk.

No Rage, Resentment, or Bitterness

- Do not internalize angry feelings, but rather release to the Lord's control (Eph. 4:26-27; Col. 3:13).
- Anger must have a **present righteous purposed** or must be extinguished. Intimacy occurs with settling issues, not dodging them.
- Do not be ruled by frustrations.
 - *“Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them”* (Col. 3:19).

Practical Things: Caring for Your Vine

1. The fruitful vine is fragile: needs **direction** and **support** to thrive and be fruitful (Ps. 128:3).
2. Applying 1 Peter 3:7: (1) “Dwell with them,” (2) “According to knowledge,” (3) “Give honor to the wife.”
3. Be a good listener; not a problem solver; draw out what needs to be worked out (Prov. 20:5).
 - Women often need to audibly express/hear themselves to understand better what they are thinking.
4. Deepest needs of a woman are **security** and **significance**.
 - Discover her “love language” that satisfies these needs!

Caring for the Fruitful Bough (Gen. 49:22)

1. The bough needs support and encouragement to reach His potential (Prov. 12:4, 18:22, 19:14).
 - A crown for his head or cancer to his bones?
2. Must be freed from home responsibility (Prov. 31:23); this is the wife's domain (Tit. 2:4; 1 Tim. 5:14).
 - Consequences if we stray from biblical pattern.
3. Wives are not to manipulate or nag (Prov. 19:13).
 - Respectful feedback is not an insult to submission.
4. Deepest need of the man is to be **respected**.

The Christian Home

Session #3

What is a Christian Home?

C. H. Mackintosh answers this question with a question:

“Now, the question for the Christian parent’s conscience really is, *Am I counting upon God for my house, and ruling my house for God?* A solemn question, surely; yet it is to be feared very few feel its magnitude and power.”

- The Christian Home is not a household of Christians, but a Christian household.
- It is not just Christ living in all family members, but where all in the family live for Christ (obey His Word).

Children from God's Perspective:

1. Children are born unto the Lord (Ezek. 16:20):
Parents are stewards, not owners of their children.
2. Children are a heritage (provision) and a reward from the Lord (Ps. 127:3).
3. Children must be trained for the Lord (Ps. 127:4; Mal. 2:15).
 - Arrows (children) must have sharpened points/straight shafts.
 - Not just moral children, but spiritual children.
 - Children must develop morally, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and academically.
 - Proverbs 22:6 arouses the hope for the future; does not promise godly parents godly children.

Parents are responsible to God for training their children (Eph. 6:1-4).

1. The tragedy of not adopting God's word as the basis for family life is seen in Judges 2:8-12.
 - After Joshua died, parents did not teach their children about the Lord; they didn't know Him.
 - The new generation forsook the Lord & embraced other gods; God chastened them (Judg. 3:1-2).
 - Illustrates the fallacy of depending on outside influence to maintain our family's spiritual welfare.
 - Untrained children remain foolish and go their own way (Prov. 22:15).

Parents are responsible to God for training their children (Eph. 6:1-4).

2. Your children will cost you everything: your time, your money, your strength and your life!
 - It we choose to neglect our parental calling, Satan and his world system will gladly intrude upon our responsibility (at least one parent must be with the children as much as possible).
 - Parenting is a full-time (24 hour a day) ministry to eternal souls (Deut. 6:6-7).

Ideas for Raising Spiritual Children

1. What is the goal of spiritual development?

Witnessing one's children trust the Lord Jesus for salvation, draw steadily closer to Him and to be transformed into His moral image.

Ideas for Raising Spiritual Children

2. Ideas to encourage a child's spiritual growth.

- Encourage Daily Quiet Times: At about 7 years of age start journaling with Dad accountability.
- Encourage Children to Fulfill Gender Roles:
Boys should be challenged to do physical labor and be groomed for spiritual leadership within the church and the family. **E.g. Sons to lead family devotion one night per week.**

Daughters should be taught to care for the home, to prepare nutritious meals, and how to attend and nurture children. **E.g. Daughters to plan and prepare one evening meal per week.**

Ideas for Raising Spiritual Children

- Preparation for the Lord's Supper
Come with prepared offering; teach difference between praise and worship.
Ensure sins are confessed.
- Remove child erected idols.
Teach disciple: Non-spiritual reading limits, computer time limits, internet limits, music limits.
Remove the influence of anything or anyone that is hindering spiritual growth.

Ideas for Raising Spiritual Children

- Teach to pause and pray (for difficulties) & pause and praise (for answered prayers and blessings).
- Train, don't entertain during Church meetings: **whole church came together** (1 Cor. 14:23, 31).
 - First: Teach the small child **to be quiet**.
 - Second: Teach the child **to sit quietly**.
 - Third: Teach the child **to listen** and **to digest messages**. Children fail to listen well because they are distracted from hearing or they audibly compete with what is being said.
 - Fourth: Teach the child **to take meaningful notes**.

Ideas for Raising Spiritual Children

- Confess sin specifically and quickly.
- Slay the Giant – meet with your child at least once a year to pick one bent or weakness to overcome.
- Engage in evangelism: door to door, nursing homes, rescue missions, handing out tracts on trips, backyard clubs, after school clubs, etc.

Raising Godly Children

Quotes:

Billy Graham: “Parents have little time for children and a great vacuum has developed, and into that vacuum is going to move some kind of ideology.”

James Dobson: “Those who control what young people are taught and what they experience, what they see, hear, think, and believe ... will determine the future course for the nation.”

Satan's Attack on the Family
(Lessons From Exodus)
Session #4

Satan's Attack on the Family

1. Exodus 5:17: Pharaoh surmised that his slaves had too much time on their hands (v. 8). His solution was to keep the Jews **so busy they would have no time for their God** (vv. 8, 17).
 - Satan (through worldliness) devalues the things of God and exaggerates the value of what is temporary/sensual. The result: we forsake the best for the permissible and squander our time.
 - Busyness often rules the home. Mothers who desire to be “keepers of the home” (1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:5) are consumed with activities outside the home. Dads are beguiled into working more to support their children's amusements. Families have little time to be families or to pursue the Lord.
 - The home thus loses its appeal as **a safe haven – a place of significance**: The lack of family devotions and time together is devastating to family unity and promotes isolationism.

Satan's Attack on the Family

2. Exodus 8:25: If the Israelites remained in Egypt, they would have to sacrifice to Jehovah the very objects of abomination, the animals which the Egyptians worshipped as gods. **Worship influenced by paganism is an affront to the God.**
- Satan uses this same tactic today to convince the saved that it is acceptable to worship God in doctrinally incorrect ways or in corrupt churches: In the last days of the Church Age many will depart sound doctrine (Matt. 13:32; 2 Thess. 2:3-4).
- However, Spirit-led worship founded on revealed truth is a mark of the true Church (John 4:23-24). The Holy Spirit guides believers into truth (John 16:13-14). Satan exercises his authority to promote the corruption of truth (Col. 2:4).

Satan's Attack on the Family

3. Exodus 8:29: When Satan cannot control the Lord's people from his stronghold in the world, he will settle for a **"border position."** Instead of blatant corruption, he is content to negatively influence believers and to dilute the certainty of truth in their minds.
 - Pharaoh would allow the Jews to leave Egypt, but he wanted them close enough that he could still influence them. He knew that if the people did **"not go very far"** it was not much different than for them to remain in Egypt.
 - There must be separation from the world in the believer's life: **The reason for resigning the world is to have Christ and Him alone – no border position is permissible.**
 - Spiritually speaking, God's people are not only to be out of Egypt, but as far as possible from its interfering tentacles.

Satan's Attack on the Family

4. Exodus: 10:8: Pharaoh thought to control the Israelites by holding their children (and likely the mothers of young children too) captive, thereby forcing the men to return to Egypt after worshipping Jehovah.
 - Moses knew God's will and rejected Pharaoh's compromise. The Hebrews had no intention of seeking one thing for themselves (the promised land), and something different for their children.
 - Given the desperate nature of the situation, a compromise by Moses may have led to the slaughter of the Hebrew women and children after the men had departed.
 - Pharaoh's proposed compromise demonstrates yet another technique of Satan to conquer God's people. Overcome, the enemy concedes the older generation and is content **to entangle, ensnare, and corrupt the next generation.**

Satan's Attack on the Family

5. Exodus 10:24: Pharaoh offered a final compromise – all the Jews could leave Egypt, but ***their flocks and herds must stay in the land***. If Pharaoh could not keep them in Egypt, he would keep them from sacrificing to Jehovah out of Egypt.
 - Pharaoh wanted to replenish the slaughtered livestock. Satan desired to rob the Jews of their resources to worship God.
 - Moses told Pharaoh that all of their livestock must go with them. God's plan for delivering His people included equipping them with all they needed to worship Him (i.e., the spoils of Egypt).
 - **God equips believers today with the resources to worship Him:**
 - (1) Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19), Who leads and guides our worship.
 - (2) In Christ we possess all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3), which enable us to manifest the character of Christ to the world as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2).
 - (3) God supplies physical resources to those who want to serve Him.

Satan's Attack on the Family

Summary of Satanic Attack Strategies:

1. Keep them busy **in the land (Egypt = the world)**.
2. Keep them worshiping **in the land**.
3. Keep them near **the land**.
4. Keep their children **in the land**.
5. Keep their resources **in the land**.

The Christian Home

JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR: If your father and mother, your sister and brother, if the very cat and dog in the house, are not happier for your being Christian, it is a question whether you really are.

OSWALD CHAMBERS: The greatest benefits God has conferred on human life, fatherhood, motherhood, childhood, home, become the greatest curse if Jesus Christ is not the head.

Summary: A Christian Home is where the Bible and its Author is the center of family life and all home affairs.

– *“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”* (Ps. 127:1).