



BOOK

8

FAMILY LIFE

GLC ESSENTIALS

BOOK 8: FAMILY LIFE, Leader's Guide

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FAMILY LIFE

LEADER'S GUIDE

IMPORTANT NOTE: This section contains teaching explanations inside parentheses that guide and help the discussion leader elaborate on each point in this lesson. You will also find the fill-ins, or answers to the blank spaces in the workbook. The goal is not to parrot the explanations but to study, reflect and express these directly and clearly as you lead the discussion in your small group. You have the option to add related illustrations or statements for further clarification. However, deviating from the outline or adding major points is not encouraged, to ensure transferability of the lesson to your Dgroup members who are expected to teach the same things to their future or current disciples, as well as to limit the time devoted for each lesson.



SESSION 1

GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY

(All of us experience the joys and the challenges of being a part of a family. It is God who in His infinite wisdom and immeasurable goodness created the family for a purpose. It is God's wonderful intention that we belong to a family that serves as an extension of His love for us. In this first session, we will explore what God has designed for every family here on earth. We will discover from the Bible why the family is important and how we can live out God's design for the family.)

I. The Family is Under Attack

“As the family goes, so goes the nation.”

ZIG ZIGLAR

(Studies have been made by many anthropologies and sociologists that in every civilization, when the family goes down, the nation goes down also. That's why God gave us principles because He wants to protect us.)

A. How is the family under attack? Here are some examples;¹

- 14 million Filipinos are solo parents
- 1 out of 3 youths have already engaged in premarital sex
- 1 out of 10 teenagers have become mothers

B. What are the attacks on the family in the 21st Century, especially in the Philippines?

- Single parent homes - *(absentee father/mother, OFWs)*
- Divorce or Annulment - *(almost 1 in 2 marriages in the U.S. end in divorce (annulment in the Philippines)*
- Wrong values - *(The values of society and the values of your family is not the same.)*
- Live-in or cohabitation
- Premarital sex and teenage pregnancy
- Gender confusion and same-sex marriages
- Addiction to: internet, games

¹ This is from the Philippine Statistics Authority as presented by GMA network.

- Pornography
- Substance abuse - (*alcohol, drugs, etc.*)
- Media content (permeated with sex, violence and storylines that go against healthy, godly marriage and family values)

The British anthropologist by the name of John Unwin studied over 87 civilizations in a span of 4000 years and his conclusion is this: when the family goes down, the civilization also goes down. No exceptions.

“No success in public life can compensate for failure in the home.”

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

II. Why is the Family Important?

(The family is under attack because it is important. All of us are born into a family whether healthy or dysfunctional. Families exist in this world because it has an inherent importance and purpose.)

A. Because the family is God’s creation.

Read Genesis 1:27

(We have to understand that Satan attacks the family because it is God’s creation. Satan hates and is against anything that God does and creates which is inherently good. Satan wants to distort it. God created sex, Satan wants to distort sex. Since God created the family, Satan wants to destroy it. Satan wants to thwart God’s amazing plan.)

B. Because the family is the basic unit of society

(It is fundamental. No matter what sociologist try to do, you cannot get around this fact.)

“The family, the most basic unit of civilized society, is the institution that may well be under the greatest attack in society today.”

CHARLES COLSON

Now you begin to understand why in CCF we have a big burden for families. We want to help families become strong.

C. Because God established the family for passing on a godly heritage.

Read Psalm 78:4-8

(God’s plan is for us to pass on this godly heritage to the next generation, we can see this in the Bible in Psalm 78:5-6. The impact of a godly family is unimaginable. You might have no idea what a godly family can do to influence the next generation, and if you do it the wrong way, you will also reap consequences beyond your lifetime. This can also be applied to singles from a spiritual point of view. As single adults, you will have a spiritual family, and your spiritual family will have spiritual children. As spiritual parents, you will disciple them and raise them up in the faith. Believers ought to become spiritual parents because there are many people today who do not have their biological parents around, and they need you.)

- To know and love God
- To know and obey God’s Word
- For character development

D. Because the family is to be a picture of God’s love and our relationship with Him

1. Father and child relationship

Read John 1:12; Matthew 7:11

(We might not know the love of God as a father until we become a parent. When you understand the depth of your love for your children, you begin to rest securely even more in the love of God

as your father. For example, when one of our children gets sick, we would even pray to the Lord to transfer the sickness to us instead and spare our children. If as a sinner we can love our children that much, how much more does our Heavenly Father loves us?)

(Many people have a hard time understanding the concept of Father's love because they grew up with a dysfunctional father. Some of us have absentee or abusive fathers, so when we talk about God being a good father, we may have a hard time understanding God's love.)

(If our family does not reflect God's design, you and I will distort the image of God in our family. If parents do not understand their role properly, they will distort the image of God before their children and the children will grow up not loving the Lord, because in their minds they will think that if this is Christianity, then they don't want anything to do with it.)

2. Husband and wife relationship

Read 2 Corinthians 11:2

God used the husband and wife relationship as an imagery of His love and relationship with us. God wants us to know that as a husband loves the wife, so that's how much God loves us.

(Husbands can understand this because we love our wives and we wouldn't want anybody to harm our wives. God loves us so much even beyond the love of husbands or wives. In terms of relationship, as husbands and wives expect faithfulness from each other, God is also expecting faithfulness from us. God is saying to us "I will be faithful to you.", "Are you faithful to me?" God is saying to us that as you will get hurt if your husband or wife is not faithful to you, so God will also get hurt if we are not faithful to Him.)

E. Because the family is to bless the world

Read Genesis 12:3

(God wants to bless our families so that it becomes a blessing to the world, especially to other families as well. God wants our families to be spiritually healthy so that we can bless other families. No wonder Satan is out to destroy our families. It is therefore necessary that we live out God's design for our families.)

“Whatever else may be said about the home, it is the bottom line of the life, the anvil upon which attitudes and convictions are hammered out...the single most influential force in our earthly existence...”
-Charles Swindoll

III. What is God's Design for the Family?

(If God is the creator of the family, let us look at how God designed it. We must discover from the Bible how He intended the family to be.)

A. Permanency in the marriage

Read Genesis 1:27

Read Genesis 2:24

God designed the family for security. Don't ever believe the lie that because you love the children, you will now (have to) divorce your wife or husband for the sake of the children. That is one of the greatest lie of Satan.

There are two important principles in developing permanency in marriage.

1. Leave

Read Genesis 2:24

(The phrase “a man shall leave and be joined and the two shall become one” gives the idea of permanency.)

a. Emotionally

b. Physically

What does it mean to leave?

- Leave all competing relationships, activities or hobbies.
- Don't choose your parents/work/children/anything else above your spouse.
- Leaving must not ignore the command to "honor your parents."
 - Don't **neglect** your parents or in-laws and their feelings.
 - Don't **criticize** or gossip about your parents or in-laws.
 - Don't **overlook** opportunities to honor your parents.

(For example, if your parents need financial help, don't give them money without discussing with each other first. Your first priority is with your spouse. You share the need to your spouse and ask them for suggestions. Do not do anything behind the back of your spouses.)

(As parents, you will release your children when they get married. Parents have the hard task of training up their children well until the day that they will release them. Our relationship with our children changes when they are married. Parents love and mentor them, but it's different when they get married, parents don't run or control their lives. Our children's priorities now are their own families. Daughters must now submit to their own husbands and the sons have to love their wives. Parents love their children and want their children to be with them all the time. But we know that's not realistic and it's not healthy. Parents have to understand that once your children get married you need to release them and encourage them. There are parents that are too controlling and they always want their children to be with them. If they don't understand the meaning of releasing their children, their children will leave them as quickly as possible. They will feel choked and stay away from their parents as far as possible. So parents should release them and entrust them to the Lord.)

2. Cleave

- a. Cleaving means that you choose to forsake all competing relationships and priorities regardless of your spouse's response.

(Do not use ministry, your work, etc. as an excuse not to go home and not be able to fulfill your roles as husbands and wives.)

- b. Cleaving is an intentional change in **priority** from parents, family, work to spouse.
- Pursue activities that lead to oneness.
 - Pursue common sports, hobbies, and friends.

(When we cleave to our spouses, we need to adjust and pursue activities that we can do with our spouse – sports, hobbies and friends. Do as much things as possible together. Think of activities that you can do together. Serve God together. In CCF there are Dgroups for couples, where we can fellowship together and then divide into groups in the same place as husbands and wives.)

- c. Cleaving requires total commitment to honor your marriage **covenant**.
- d. What God has joined together let no man separate.

Read Mark 10:2-9

Read Mark 10:11-12

(The phrase “what God has put together, let no man separate.” cannot be found in the book of Genesis. We only find this in the New Testament where Jesus explains what is the meaning of leaving and cleaving. Jesus continues to say in verses 11 -12 “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman, commits adultery against her; and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery”. What Jesus is saying in this

passage is that marriage is permanent and you cannot divorce. According to Jesus, if you divorce and marry somebody else, that is not God's plan.)

3. God hates **divorce**

Read Malachi 2:16

(God is very clear, even in the Old Testament that He hates divorce. However, if some of you have been divorced and remarried, do not divorce your wife again. In the same way, if an egg has been scrambled, you cannot separate the yolk from the egg white. The situation of some of you is scrambled, so make the best out of it. But if you are contemplating divorce, or thinking about it, it is clear in the Bible that God hates divorce.)

Where does your attitude towards divorce fit into the scale below? Are you in the “Never Never” divorce category, or on the “Sever Sever” category or somewhere in between?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The Never Never Box	Hope Not	Probably Not	The Maybe Crisis	Probably Will	Hope To	The Sever Sever Box

(For every married couple, in this chart, the “The never, never” box should be your attitude towards divorce. If you are not careful, your heart and spirit will move from the “Hope not”, and then to “Probably not”, then move on to “Maybe”, to “Probably will”, to “Hope to” and then finally to the ‘Sever Sever’ box. This is the part where you actually have a divorce. The advice would be, the moment you are thinking or even contemplating about divorce, you must always be in the ‘never never’ box. Don’t allow your mind to even consider beyond this. So guard your heart and your spirit.)

(Don’t even joke about it with your spouse. That’s a bad joke because when we got married, we told our spouses that no

matter what they do, we will love each other. Before God, you made promises and vow together that in good times and in bad times, you will never forsake each other, these things must be honored)

“Retaining the idea of divorce in your emotional vocabulary – even as a last-ditch option--will hinder the total effort you would otherwise pour into your marriage. It will sabotage your attempts to improve your relationship... Keeping divorce as an escape clause indicates a flaw in your commitment to each other, even as a tiny crack that can be fatally widened by many forces working to destroy homes and families.”
- Dr. Ed Wheat

(Divorce is never an option for believers. If you are having problems with your husband or wife, you have no choice but to fix it. You will have to find ways to resolve your issues. Secular counseling has damaged the Christian community and influenced our thinking by saying things like “for your own sake or for the sake of your children, you divorce your spouse” or “What about your own happiness?” We must understand that this kind of reasoning leads to disaster. The good news for us is this, no matter what the status of your marriage is— past and present— God can redeem your marriage. You can enjoy your marriage and not simply endure. God designed marriages to be enjoyed and not to be endured.)

B. Intimacy between husband and wife

1. Marriage is the joining of two individuals into one.

Read Genesis 2:24

- a. Emotional Oneness
- b. Spiritual Oneness
- c. Physical-Body Oneness

(God designed marriage for a husband and wife to have intimacy- emotional, physical, and spiritual. We are made of

body, soul, spirit and emotion, so God wants us to have intimacy in those areas. Many times people are only attracted to each other physically but we know that the physical body will not last. On the other hand, if your attraction is not just physical but also emotional and spiritual, you will become more beautiful and handsome as the years go by. That is because of the spiritual connection between the two of you. That is God's plan.)

2. Marriage is for sexual pleasure and protection.

Read Proverbs 5:18-19

(People don't realize this because Hollywood has hijacked sex. Satan wants to destroy sex. Sex within the context of marriage is amazing. In some denominations or churches, this aspect of the biblical truth is a taboo that they don't talk about it so much. Just like the portion where it says to "let her breasts satisfy you at all times, be exhilarated always with her love". The Hebrew word for 'exhilarated' has the English equivalent of – "get drunk". To be exhilarated means that you are drunk or you are overwhelmed.)

Read 1 Corinthians 7:2-3, 5

(Sex in marriage is not just about performing an obligation but rather a way also of safeguarding each other's purity before God. The idea then is that sex is God's gift that should be enjoyed in the context of marriage.)

Marriage is also for protection from immorality. So that men and women will not fall into sexual impurities, they must fulfill their sexual roles to each other only in the context of marriage. Although sex is a duty to be performed to each other when married, it is to be done also out of love.

3. Marriage is for procreation

Read Psalm 127:3

(Marriage is also for raising up children. God designed that children will be born in the context of the relationship of a married couple. Sex is not just for pleasure and enjoyment but a means to produce offspring. Children are entrusted to the care of their parents and it is the responsibility of the parents to nurture God-fearing children.)

C. Spiritual heritage from parents to children

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-3

(Spiritual heritage is God's plan. God wants to use your family to pass on a godly legacy to the next and future generations.)

D. Features of a God-designed family

(As parents, you should develop and maintain certain biblical characteristics of a godly home. Here are a few:)

1. Unconditional love and acceptance

(Love should be freely and unconditionally given in our families. Our spouses and children should feel loved and accepted. That should be the primary characteristics of our families. Your children need not prove anything to earn your love, there must be unconditional love.)

2. Shared biblical values

(When you have shared Biblical values with your spouse and children you will have less conflicts, tensions and problems. Conflicts arise because of different values. If you have shared values, you will have minimum conflict. You should be able to instill in your children biblical values that will govern their Christian faith and conduct. Every home, every father and mother, should adapt biblical values that they want to be practiced in their family.)

3. Vision and mission

(Every family member should have a clear & common vision and mission from God early on in their lives. Our children should understand that they were not born to please themselves and it should be clear to them what God will do in their lives. Whatever your vision and mission is, that should be your passion. If our vision and mission is to evangelize the world and make disciples, then our children can disciple younger people and the parents can disciple older people. We should be all on the same page.)

4. Servant attitudes

(Our children should grow up with servant attitudes and not have entitlement mentality. Many young people today are growing up with this mentality. Parents should not do everything for their children. Most parents love their children but they spoil them. As parents we have to teach our children to serve people and make sure that they practice that at home.)

5. Positive environment

(We must create a positive environment for all the members of the family. Our homes should be happy and full of optimism especially now that there is so much negativity around us. The world out there is already filled with challenges and struggles, therefore our homes should be filled with hope and joy. We should hear laughter, because our homes should be a place of happiness and joy that comes from God. We may not be perfect, and we don't have a perfect home, but there should be a positive environment, no shouting but lots of laughter.)

6. Good communication

(Our families should have a good communication system. Children must be raised to not keep secrets from their parents. As much as possible, parents should know everything about what is happening in the lives of their children. A godly home has an effective communication wherein the children can tell their issues, concerns or problems without parents reacting irresponsibly or become hysterical.)

(Parents should talk to their children in a more relaxed and non-judgmental or non-condemning manner. For example, if your children open up to you about something personal to them like where they hang out, peer pressures they are facing, physical/intimate issues, etc. you should just remain calm and keep your composure, process their situation and issues calmly and with an open mind. Parents should have open minds and listen very well to what their children try to share when they open up. When parents panic and react negatively, the children will feel attacked and not open up anymore.)

(The key to good communication is listening. Parents should practice talking less and listening more. Communication isn't automatic, you need to develop it. Listen and ask questions so that they will open up. Parents can model sharing their own weakness and problem so that the children will share theirs also.)

7. Forgiveness

(This should be basic in all families. You are allowed to make mistakes and we should forgive all the time. Our families should be a family of grace. If you have forgiveness issues with your parents, even if your parents are not believers, begin with yourself as to show how to forgive. If your parents don't want to forgive you, you forgive them.)

8. Trust and respect

(Trust and respect are very important in family relationships. We should not shout or belittle each other, even if the children are still young. We should treat each family member with respect. We should desire to be a family where we trust each other and respect one another. Parents should not shout at their children and children don't shout at their siblings and parents. Respect your parents, children, and the people in your home in every way.)

9. Time together

(Family time is very important. It should be a high priority. Families should spend time together in fellowship, studying the word of God, prayer, going to church, meals, vacations,

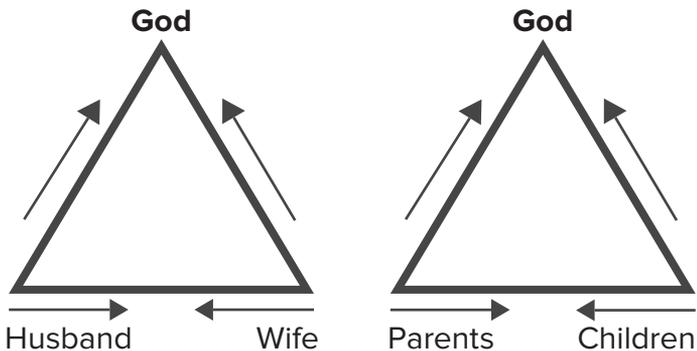
special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Children need quality time from their parents. We won't have time until we make time. Everybody is busy with something. It could be ministry, work, hobbies, house chores, etc. We are very busy people, so you got to make time and make the most out of it with your family.)

10. Expect the **best** of each other

(Some parents are very negative. They are negative because their parents were also negative. So this negativity is passed on. By the grace of God, we can break this cycle and become positive and encouragers. We want to see our children develop their highest potential. As a family we should expect the best of each other and see to it that each member of the family will fulfill God's plan and calling for their lives. So when something unpleasant happens, we can choose to be positive and expect the best of each other. We always think of what is best for each other and become more gracious towards them.)

IV. How can families live by God's design?

- A. By having God as the center.



(Families can live by God's design if they make God the center of their family. Meaning, your entire family is centered on God. Our relationship with God impacts our relationship with others. The vertical (relationship w/ God) will impact the horizontal (relationship w/ others). Husband and wife, parent and children become close to each other when they are also close to God. Our closeness to each other depends entirely on our closeness to God. Therefore, we must begin with our vertical relationship with God, make that tight and strong, and your (horizontal) relationship with people will improve. But if you have a bad relationship with God, we can guarantee that it will affect your relationship with everybody else.)

B. By loving God

Read Mark 12:30

(Families live by God's design by obeying the greatest commandment. Every family must have loving God as one of their values. Parents must model loving God and prioritizing Him to their children by worshipping God together every Sunday; going to the church on time. Do your children see you read the Bible? Do they see you praying? How can your children believe you when you say that you love God when you skip worship services, when you go there late or you don't treat God with reverence?)

C. By loving one another.

Read Mark 12:31

(Living by God's design means loving one another, especially the members of our families. Wives, the best way you can show this is to love your husbands, husbands love your wives and children should also love their parents. One of the basic things that we can do in expressing our love for one another is to avoid shouting at each other.)

D. By obeying God's Word

Read Matthew 7:24-25

(Families that live by God's design obey God's Word. There are two ways to build up your family, either on a solid ground anchored on God's word or on sandy (unstable) ground anchored on human opinion. You can't tell the difference until your foundation is tested.)

(Parents must model values that we want the children to learn. One of these is that we should intentionally teach the children to submit to the authority of God's Word. For example, the Bible says that we should submit to authority, therefore we teach our children to do the same and encourage them to submit to their parent's authority. If your children are trained to submit to authority, they will also submit to the authority of God's Word and obey it. Because they respect authority, they will also submit to your authority as their parents and they will listen to you. But if you keep criticizing and maligning those in authority, chances are good your children will also criticize and malign those in authority, including your authority over them. They will not respect and obey you.)

E. By modeling godly character.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1

(It is our prayer that our lives will be a model so that it will attract others to follow Jesus, especially our children. If others look at us, will they choose to follow Jesus? The answer should be yes. Parents need to be purposeful in modeling godly character. Children emulate and do what they caught from their parents. Our actions as parents speak so much to our children. We must also consider the strengths and weaknesses of our children and help them become more Christ-like in character. By modeling godly character, the parents will disciple their children to become godly as well.)

F. By being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Read Galatians 5:22-23

(It is impossible to be good parents on our own. We need to be controlled by the Spirit of God because we cannot do this on our own strength. If a person is controlled by the Holy Spirit, the product is love, joy, peace, etc. The word fruit means that it is a by-product of being controlled by the Spirit and not from your own strength and ability. As parents we must model a Spirit-filled life; for example when we make a mistake, we apologize.)

G. By serving God together

Read Mark 10:45

(If we want to live by God's design then we must serve like Jesus. Just as He came not to be served but to serve, we must serve others. We must purposely serve God together as a family. For example, you can expose and bring your children to mission trips. Bring and allow them to go and serve in different, difficult and poor places. We should train our children to go outside the comfort of the house because we want them to learn that life is not always easy.)

H. By praying together

Read Philippians 4:6-7

(As a family, we should develop the habit of praying together. Praying together is the best way that we can develop our relationship with one another and with God. These things will not just happen, you need to be purposeful. As couples you can pray together whenever and in whatever situation. When your children get used to praying together as a family, they will apply it to their own families when they grow old.)

Three important words as we close the first part:

1. Journey

(Your family is on a journey to become more Christ-like. Just like a journey needs a map for directions, if you want to have a godly family, it's not easy and you need a map for that – our map is the Bible.)

2. Progress

(Every family is a work in progress. Progress means that it doesn't happen in an instant. Along the journey, sometimes we will have arguments and get irritated with each other. That's okay, it is progressive and we are growing. Just make sure it's progressive, so you ask each other, "Honey, am I a better person this year than last year?" We can also ask ourselves, "Am I a better person today than I was last year?", "Am I becoming a better father, a better mother?" We are not yet perfect but we are progressing towards Christ-likeness. We should evaluate ourselves and see to it that we are growing and becoming more like Christ every day.)

3. Practice

(You need to practice what you have learned and be consistent in doing it. Don't be discouraged if your family is not yet what it's supposed to be. Just continue on and be faithful with what God has called you.)



SESSION 2

ROLES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

(God designed the family and had given corresponding roles for each family member that will help each family member relate to each other. God had set the responsibilities and tasks of each member in the family to put into daily practice. In this session, we will discover from the Bible why roles are important and what the roles of the husband and wife are. But first, let us explore the Bible to see why it is important to have roles observed in the family.)

I. Why Roles are Important

(Roles in the family are very important for various reasons. The family is under constant attack and the enemy tries to confuse or subvert these roles. A good way of defending ourselves from these attacks is to understand what are our specific roles and their importance.)

A. Roles are for the proper functioning of the family.

In order for families to function well as God designed it to be, God set up roles for each member to play or perform. These roles will see to it that families will function properly according to God's design. Men and women are different by God's design and their differences are meant to complement each other, not to compete or to clash.

1. Roles do not imply superiority, inferiority, or inequality. Men and women are equal.

Read Galatians 3:28

(We have different roles in the family. Just like in an office or work setting, there are different roles. The roles of the assistant, clerk, manager, president etc. are all valuable to the company or organization. The company or organization will not succeed without the contribution of all of them through the roles they play. Especially in the family, nobody is more valuable in the sight of God. The husband's nor the wife's role is not superior or inferior to each other. Everybody is equal in the eyes of God but we have different but equally important roles in the family.)

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2. Roles are determined by **God** not by society or by ability.

(For many people, roles are determined by tradition. You grew up in a family, where you see your parents doing this and that, therefore, in your mind that will be your role when you become married and have a family of your own. Roles can also be determined by the influence of media and society, especially from what we see and experience in our present culture. Even abilities can be used to determine the roles in the family. If the wife is better in making money and has leadership skills, she becomes the head of the family. But that is not healthy. Many women like to have a strong husband leader, but many husbands neglect their calling. They become passive and allow the wife to take charge. But roles in the family are determined by God, not by society, tradition or by ability. Believers as the unique people of God, follow His original design for His people. We make our decisions and base our behaviors on God's word. That's why we are called Bible-believing Christians. If society, media or our culture is wrong, we are willing to go against it and strive to effect change.)

3. Roles are necessary for effectiveness in accomplishing God's **purpose**.

(In order to achieve God's purposes for the whole of humanity, He will use the family and its proper functioning. To be effective in accomplishing God's purposes we need to know the roles we have to observe in our families and in the society that we live in.)

4. Roles are needed for **harmony** in the family.

(There will be no harmony in the family when there are no clear roles and clear leadership. Somebody has got to be the leader in the family. If the children don't know who to turn to for direction, decision-making or specific action, then confusion and chaos will surely happen. In God's economy, the father is supposed to be the head of the family, not because of abilities,

not because of inferiority or superiority. The role of the husband in the Bible is to be the leader and the lover. On the other hand, the role of the wives is to be the helpmate. Women are to submit and to respect, not because you are inferior, but because that is God's design. All of these roles are given to provide harmony in the home.)

5. Roles are needed for role **modeling**.

(Role modeling is important because when husbands and wives do not fulfill their God-given roles, there is long-term negative impact on the whole family, especially in their children's lives. Children will imitate what they see in their parents whether good or bad. There should be a well-defined, biblical role modeling in the family so that each member of the family can practice and model it the right way.)

B. When a husband and a wife do not fulfill their God given roles, there is long term negative impact on the family.

1. Conflict, disharmony and chaos in the family

(Because there is no clear roles set in the family, conflicts, disharmony and chaos will inevitably happen in the family. Dysfunction in the family happens when God's design is not observed.)

2. Gender confusion – more prone to homosexuality and lesbianism

(If children don't receive the proper values and the role modeling in the family, chances are that their concept and practice of gender will also be affected. Almost in all cases that we encounter in any ministry to the LGBT is that they come from families where the roles are not clear. It is crucial that while our children are still young we communicate to them clearly their gender and sexual orientation. We have to build their manhood and womanhood early. We have to affirm and instill in them their gender, especially now that homosexuality is a prevalent issue.)

3. Bad examples

(Parents are to model the biblical roles in the family not only for the sake of their children but for the whole society in general. Children will follow what they see in their parents, whether good or bad. Christian families should serve as a good example of how it is to live within God's design and purpose for marriage and families. They should also be a positive influence in the communities where they belong in the way they live out their God-given roles.)

4. God is not glorified

(God is glorified when we live out His design and purposes for us His children. We can now be happy knowing that we are glorifying God when we are doing our roles that God has assigned for each of us. The enemy is trying his best to destroy the family by distorting or circumventing the roles of each member. When each member of the family is doing exactly what God intends, then God is most glorified in their lives.)

II. The Roles of the Members of the Family

Each member of the family has roles that God designed for each of them. We will start with the role of the husband.

A. Role of the Husband

1. Leader

Read Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:3

(According to these verses, God made the husband the head of the wife. He is to be the leader. But his leadership does not mean that he is to lord over her. This kind of leadership is different. It is very important then that husbands should understand what it means to be God's kind of leader.)

- a. The husband is to be a **servant-leader**.

(According to Jesus, the leadership model that husbands should follow is servant leadership. Many years back, the common model of leadership is the military, hierarchal type or positional. Most companies had that kind of leadership. Harvard School (Harvard Business Review) made a research and discovered that the best and most effective C.E.Os in the world were servant leaders. Servant leadership means that you are responsible, but you know you are there to serve others –there is humility and compassion. You are the leader and have authority, yet your attitude is one of a servant.)

Styles of Leadership

- Absentee
- Passive
- Responsible (servant leader)
- Dictatorial
- Abusive

Read Mark 10:42-45

- Not passive or indifferent

(An absentee leader is when the leader is present physically but emotionally absent. If a father is passive or indifferent – every time there is a problem, he tells his son to go ask the mother. In this country, majority of fathers are passive because we don't have role models. The religious leaders of this country are not married. We don't have any model and the models that we have, sad to say, are from Hollywood.)

- Not dictatorial or abusive

(Husbands should be a responsible servant leader and not dictatorial or abusive. Dictatorial leaders will always have the "I am the boss here" attitude. There are also abusive leaders who use force, violence or

verbal abuse to exploit and harm their families.)

- b. The husband is **responsible** to God for how he leads his wife and children.

Leadership is not easy. In fact it's very difficult because you are responsible before God.

Read 1 Timothy 3:2–4

(As a leader, a husband is to manage his household well. He is responsible for his whole family. If something goes wrong with the family, God will hold the husband responsible, not the wife. If the wife does not listen to the husband, the problem is not the wife but the husband because he is supposed to be the leader that the wife listens to. If the husband cannot make his wife listen to him, he is not discipling his wife well. So what does it mean to be a leader?)

- He sets a good **example**
- He takes the **initiative**
- He **plans** ahead.
- “The buck stops with him!”

(Husbands must analyze their families' situations and have to take initiative to improve in areas that needs improvement. They have to think ahead and set directions. They need to set core values for the family. Most men do not learn how to be a husband and the leader. There is no course in the university that teaches men how to be a husband or a father. This can only be found in the teachings of the Bible. Believers are very blessed because they have the Bible.)

-
- c. The husband is **accountable** to God for the welfare of his wife and family.

(The meaning of leadership is that you are accountable. If you are the president of the company and if the company is not making money, the board will hold the president accountable. In the same manner, God will hold the husband accountable for the welfare of his wife and children. The husband is accountable to God if something goes wrong with his family.)

- d. The husband is **to understand** his wife.

Read 1 Peter 3:7

(When it comes to leadership, husbands have to understand their wives as someone who is weaker. This does not mean inferior rather it means she's delicate. We can compare them to a China or porcelain vessel that can easily be broken that should be handled with care. On the other hand, men are like drums that are sturdy. Men can be emotionally insensitive, they can take a lot of emotional tension, but wives are different. Husbands have to honor their wives by understanding their fears, anxieties and even their dreams in life. Notice also in this verse that the way you treat your wife affects your prayer life. It affects your spiritual life, your financial life, your career and it affects everything.)

- e. The husband is to **provide**.

Read 1 Timothy 5:8

(A leader means you are responsible for the financial welfare of the family. Husbands are to provide not only their physical needs but also emotional and most importantly their spiritual needs. For many families, they think that if the wife stops working, the standard of living will go down. But we must remember that the long term welfare of the

family is more important than the standard of living. Family members have to function according to their design.)

- f. The husband is to **protect** the wife.

Read Ephesians 5:27-29

(Sometimes men because of their passivity fail to protect their wives from danger, harm or even temptations, and fail to protect their wives from all possible problems. Ladies like men to protect them. Husbands must protect their families in the face of danger. To be a man, you must provide and protect. Women will submit to a man who will love and protect them and are willing even to die for his family.)

2. **Lover**

Read Ephesians 5:25-29

(How should husbands love their wives? The Bible gives us the standard of what kind of love. The standard is Jesus Christ, husbands should love their wives just like how Christ loved the Church. The reality is that we love our wives, but not the way Christ loves us. God loves you so much that He died for you.)

- a. It is the same love that God has for us. This love is **unconditional** (agape love).

Read Romans 5:8

(When the Bible said, “As Christ loved the church,” the word for love is “agapeo” or “agape.” “Agape” became popular, because Jesus used it to express unconditional love and this is the kind of love that He wants us to understand. Meaning you love your wife as is, where is. Husbands should love their wives regardless of the circumstances. It is a love that is demonstrated. It is an action, not just feelings.)

Love is:

- An unconditional commitment

(It is not just a feeling. It cannot be based on feelings because feelings may not be there but you are to still love your wife. It is an unconditional commitment. In other words, love is an act of the will, not just feelings. It's a choice you make. You can choose to love and not to love.)

- Toward an imperfect person

(To love perfect people is not a problem. When you first met your spouse, to you he or she was perfect. And then after you got married, what do you discover? We are not perfect and it is quite a challenge. We have to love each other even though we are not perfect. Only a true Christian has the power and the strength to love like this.)

- For their highest good

(Most of the time our love is selfish. Most people enter into a relationship because they get something out of it or for their own selfish interests. But husbands should work out for the best of their wives. Husbands are to seek their wives' highest good, which often requires sacrifice.)

- Which often requires sacrifice

(Jesus sacrificed for us. There are times that husbands have to sacrifice in order to seek their wives highest good. You must be willing, for the sake of your wife, to seek the highest good, even if entails sacrificing for them. As a leader, we think of what is best. We seek for their highest good.)

-
- b. This love is **proactive** not reactive or selfish.

(This love is proactive – meaning that the husband’s job is to make sure his wife feels loved. It is the lover’s responsibility to make his wife feel loved. When you love your wife, husband, children and parents, you make sure they know and they feel loved. So the husband must find out what will make the wife feel loved. Husbands should always think of their wives first. They must be the one taking the initiative for the best interest of their wives. It’s not easy but husbands have to learn. Husbands must know what their wives care about and what their love languages are. If she cares a lot about positive words, affections, hugs, etc. then husbands should learn to be proactive in doing these things that will make them feel loved.)

- c. This love **nourishes** and **cherishes**.

“A husband is like a gardener.”

(To nourish means that husbands are to meet the needs of their wives. The Greek word for “cherish” is related to gardening– ‘to cause to bloom’. The way our wives will look and the way she behaves tells us a lot about the way we have loved our wives. Husbands are like gardeners, as gardeners put effort to put fertilizer, water, sunlight– that’s what they need to do to their wives also.)

- d. This love is **continuous**.

“True love doesn’t have a happy ending; true love doesn’t have an ending.

The greatest need of a wife is love. The greatest fear of a wife after marriage is that her husband will not love and cherish her anymore but take her for granted.

(The greatest fear of any woman is to be taken for granted or to be treated just like a sex object, after marriage. Men

should hug and kiss their wives every day, not just when men want sex.)

The needs of a wife are:

- Affection (*intimacy, closeness*)
- Affirmation (*Appreciation, Compliment*)
- Attention (*Time, Heart, Communication*)
- Leadership (*Spiritual, Direction*)
- Security (*Physical, Emotional, Financial*)
- Family Commitment

(Among other things, these are what the wives needs. If the wife does not experience all these, the love that husbands offered is not sufficient. Husbands should strive to do well in all of these areas.)

B. Role of the Wife

1. Helpmate

Read Genesis 2:18

(The role of the wife is to be a helpmate to her husband. We might have a negative reaction to the word “helper”. It may sound like an inferior position or an inferior role, but it’s not, God even calls Himself our Helper. The Holy Spirit is our Helper. It is a very noble role. The word “helper” in the Hebrew mean “life-giver, alongside.” And that is a picture of what it means to be a helpmate to the husband.)

Read Proverbs 31:10-12

(The word “jewel” means “rubies.” And did you know that a good ruby is more valuable than a diamond? This verse, “She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.” is a very

good summary of the job description of a life-giver, a helpmate coming alongside her husband. So, how does a wife do that?)

- a. To help, assist, aid, support and encourage her husband.

(No one in this world would really care about a husband than how a wife should. Imagine, he goes to work or at the office, and what do they want from him? They want him to perform and to do a good job. There's already a lot of pressure on him. So when he comes home, he should feel like he is the most important person in the world to you and your family. That's why we need to prioritize him and to encourage him. A wife should be a husband's cheerleader. She should be there to cheer him on, to compliment him, to encourage him. She is also to be the home manager under the authority of her husband.)

- b. To prioritize her husband.

(Women have to understand that they are to prioritize their husband and that they are to assist their husband. This means that wives should give room for the needs of their husband. He is her priority. When women have children they usually prioritize the children because they think that their children are helpless. Our children need to see that we prioritize our husband because that is a good model to our children and that is God's standard for us.)

- c. To do her husband good all the days of her life.

(Wives are to do their husband good all the days of their lives. The question that wives should ask themselves is: are you a life-giver or are you a life-drainer? Do you do your husband good every day or just some days or no days at all? Wives remember that this is your job description and you are accountable to God.)

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- d. To be the home manager under the authority of her husband.

Read Titus 2:4-5

(In today's society, women are often told that, to be accomplished and significant, she needs to be working outside the home, have a career, to be achieving something. But what is God's priority occupation according to this verse? Where does God want the wife to be? It is to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, to be pure, and then to be workers at home. God is saying that wives have to really prioritize their families.)

2. Submit

Read Ephesians 5:22-24

Read 1 Peter 3:1-4

(Submit means being subject to. It is actually a military term which means to be aligned under the commander for the purpose of going to war. In the wives' case they are to voluntarily come under the authority of their husbands to accomplish God's purposes. The fact is we are in a spiritual battle. Satan is attacking the family and Satan knows that divided we fall and united we stand. So submission is a way of protecting our family from demonic attack.)

- a. Voluntarily
- b. To your own husband

(Do not compare your husband to other men – not to your father, or brother, or other husbands. Not all men are the same. Wives must know their husbands. They must know what their husbands want them to do. A wife must understand and know well her husband's needs and wants.)

c. As to the Lord

(We are to submit to our husbands with the same conscientiousness that we would in submitting to Jesus. This means we are to do it for Jesus (to please Him) and by the power of Jesus. Submission is an act of faith and it is to the Lord. It's an act of the will, you can have your own way, but if you want God's blessing, if you want your husband to cherish you and you want to accomplish God's purposes for your life, then you must submit to your husband. This choice will impact the future of your family. When your husband asks you to do something, you can do it with a smile in your heart because you are doing it for Jesus to accomplish His plans for your lives.)

d. In everything

(It means in the things that you like and in the things that you don't like. When you only submit in the things you like, that's really not submitting, that's just doing what you want to do. But when you submit even in the things that you don't like, that is where real submission is demonstrated. Submission is doing what you don't want to do.)

e. With a gentle and quiet spirit

(We can be submitting on the outside. But God said, "Submission has to be with a gentle and quiet spirit." It means that we are trusting God to take care of us, to work out everything for good. It's an act of faith. That's why submission is unto the Lord. You submit first to God because He says to submit to your husband. And then you trust Him with the consequences.)

(Wives are not to nag their husbands. When you're nagging your husband, you are speaking so loud that they cannot hear the voice of God. You become a wedge between God and your husband. Only God can change the heart. Stop

nagging your husbands and nag God. You can nag God because God says to pray about everything. When you talk to God then God will talk to your husband. Instead, as seen in 1 Peter 3:1-4 wives are to be submissive, so that the husbands may be won without a word but by the wives' behavior.)

- Submission is ultimately not between the wife and the husband, but between the wife and God. He commands the wife to submit and if she doesn't, she is sinning.

(Wives, if we don't submit, we are sinning. We have no excuse for not submitting. It's very serious and God uses submission for protection. Submission is for our protection, even if the wife doesn't agree or understand. God uses the husbands to protect the family. Wives should listen to their husband. He is your leader and he is your authority and God will use him to guide you.)

- Submission makes the husband's role of leading easier. To be a good leader, he needs a wife who is a good follower. Her example is important to train their children to submit to authority as well.
- Submission without respect is not submission at all!

It is submission in everything; yet with a gentle and quiet spirit. It is not rebellious.

3. Respect

Read Ephesians 5:33

(Respect is very important and God commands the wife to respect her husband. We think that respect is earned or based on behavior. If women fear of not being loved, man fears that

after he is married and wives know them through and through that wives will stop respecting him. This is a command and God takes this very seriously. God has put it in husbands to be respected because as a leader he needs to be respected. He needs someone to submit to him. If a wife is not respecting her husband, he becomes so vulnerable to any women that are going to respect him.)

Respect is very important to a man. The basic fear of a husband is that after he is married, his wife will not respect him.

- Respect is not earned or based on behavior.
- Respect his God-given position of authority.
- Respect him like you would a boss.
- Respect means making him your priority.
- Respect means speaking to him in a respectful manner, watching your body language, tone of voice and words.

(Women are a master at body language. Sometimes when you try to get a point across, you can have a certain tone on your voice. You may not realize it because you are trying to emphasize your point. You may not be shouting but there is an edge in your voice and that is disrespectful. For example, when your husband asks you to do something and you have to submit but you don't agree, what do you usually do? You roll your eyes and throw your head. It's like your last word. You will do it, but you have to have the last word. So women have to watch your tone and body language.)

- Respect means knowing and meeting his needs.

Basic needs of most husbands:

- Authority: Serve, Lead, Analyze and Counsel

(Husbands need to be recognized as the authority. We are to appreciate their leadership.)

- Conquest: Work, Achieve, Protect, Provide

(Work is important for husbands. They want to be successful. They want to succeed. So women, stop complaining about them working so hard. Why don't you start complimenting them and saying, "I appreciate your hard work and I appreciate you bringing home the money for the family's needs")

- Respect: Honor

- Relationship: Close Friendship

(They like shoulder-to-shoulder communication. They want friendship. They don't like to talk front-to-front like women do. Women like to talk sitting down, eyeball-to-eyeball. They like recreational companionship. It's good if women can find something that they can do with their husband recreationally.)

- Support: Domestic

(They need the wives to take care of the house. It should be clean and in order.)

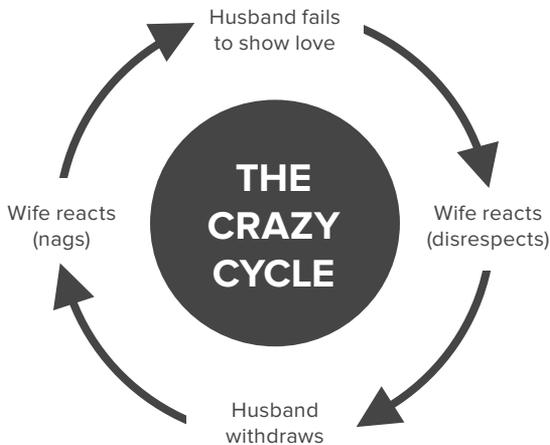
- Sexuality: Sex, Attractive Wife

(Sex is very important to the husbands. It's not the most important thing, but if the relationship is fine, then your sexual relationship should be well also. It's a biological need for a man. A man also wants an attractive wife. Wives should be careful and try to look the best that they can for the age that they are. Only wives can legitimately fulfill this need. That is why the Bible says,

“Do not deny one another. Husbands, don’t deny your wife and wife, don’t deny your husband.” There are a lot of temptations outside the home that is why it’s so important.)

“Raise appreciation, lower expectations”

(Before marriage we have all these plans, however after marriage, it becomes an expectation that you owe to one another. We should give our expectations to God and ask God to change our husband in areas we’d like. You should look for things to compliment and encourage, even little things. So that you don’t forget, make a list and review that list and every day think of one way you could say something positive to him. Make it a habit and you will see that your family will be predictably joyful by the power of the Spirit. You can do your roles unto God because this is His command. This is how we can have a family that will be a light unto the world and to show what a Christian family is like).



(This is a crazy cycle happening to many marriages today. As we look at this, we have to remember that men do not withdraw because they don’t love their wives. It’s their nature that when they encounter conflict with

their wives, they just withdraw. Men don't fight women. But husbands, the moment you withdraw, when you start to become silent and don't reach out to your wife, your wife will think you don't love her. She becomes insecure. The moment she becomes insecure, she begins to nag, and she begins to act differently, and the cycle will begin again. We need to reverse this cycle so that marriages won't fail.

“The highest happiness on earth is in marriage.
Every man who is happily married is a successful man even
if he has failed in everything else.”

WILLIAM LYON PHELPS

SESSION 3

ROLES OF CHILDREN AND SINGLE ADULTS

(In this session, we will seek to have a deeper understanding of the biblical role of children in relation to their parents and siblings. We will see how children (young and single adults) are encouraged to make a conscious effort to obey, honor and serve their parents throughout their lifetime.)

I. Role of the Children

We have already studied last time the roles of the husband and wife. But now we will turn our attention on the roles of the children in order to have a complete picture of the relationships within the family.

A. Obey their parents as unto the Lord.

Read Ephesians 6:1-3

(When God gives us a command, it is always for our good. The verse says, 'that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth'. God's command is good, it is for our protection, blessings and it's to honor God.)

(Obedience is foundational. It's hard to train anybody until they learn to obey. Our problem is that you and I have probably been brain-washed to realize that there are many people in authority who are abusive. But just because authorities are abusive, this does not mean we should neglect obedience. Even though there are many parents who are abusive, still the Bible says that our job is to obey and honor our parents.)

B. Honor their parents.

To honor is a matter of attitude. To honor means to respect them and to follow their hearts' desire, not just fulfill their commands. When our parents are already old, we can honor them by taking care of them, do our best to get the best caregiver, provide food, medicine, etc. whatever is required.

C. Serve others - be givers not consumers only.

To take the initiative to:

1. Help around the house (*cleaning chores, etc.*)
2. Save expenses
3. Encourage and help other family members
4. Pray for others

D. Do their best in everything for the glory of God.

(People who will always do their best are the ones that learn to do their best as kids. When they go to work when they are older, they will do their best. And when they serve God, they will do their best also. But if we don't train our children to do their best, they won't do their best. They will take the easiest path--the path of least resistance.)

II. Role of Single Adults

As single adults, you have more opportunities to serve God and your family. It is also the time when you can explore more things for the glory of God. Here are some of your roles as single adults.

A. Towards God

1. **Love God** and serve Him with undistracted devotion.

Read Mark 12:30

(Single adults must be trained with regards to their relationship with God. We must teach them that they must love God and serve Him with undistracted devotion. Loving God is the greatest commandment. As somebody once said, "To love God is the sum of all moral obligations. To love others is the sum of all moral ethics.")

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

(Singles should praise God that they have the benefit of undistracted devotion to the Lord. The problem with many singles is that their focus is not the Lord. They are always thinking about who to marry.)

2. Love **others** (family, friends, co-workers).

Read Mark 12:31

(Singles should learn to love others: family, friends, co-workers. If you love God you will love others. This may sound so simple but in reality, it is not.)

Read 1 John 4:20

(If we love others we will be thinking of how to be a blessing to them. We will not think of how to take advantage of that person. If we love somebody, we would want to care for them. Many singles struggle with purity. They struggle with competition. And the secret of overcoming all of these is you love God, make Him number one and then you love one another. For the rest of our life, we will learn that God is going to work in our heart to love others more than we love ourselves.)

Read John 13:34-35

If we love one another, by this all men will know that we are Jesus' disciples. We will bring glory to God if we love one another.

3. Be a **catalyst** for family/social transformation.

Read Matthew 5:13-14

(In chemistry, a catalyst is a chemical agent that you put in to expedite or accelerate the chemical process. As single adults we have a responsibility towards God to be a catalyst for transformation because we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.)

B. Towards Parents

(Single adults regardless if they live with their parents or on their own, still have responsibility towards their parents. In fact, it is the time when they can really help their parents and families.)

1. **Honor** them

Read Ephesians 6:2-3

(It is the first commandment with a promise that it may be well with us and that we may live long on the earth when we honor our parents. This promise is real and God will give us the grace to believe it and to hold on to it so that we may follow God and continue to honor our parents. It is our role even as single adults.)

One of the best ways to honor your parents is by spending time with them, appreciating them, and loving them. Every time we obey our parents as a young boy/girl and every time we honor our father and mother growing up, God blesses us. When we honor our parents, God will help us in school, in sports, etc. and will even use our parents to help us find our life partners.

2. **Communicate** with them

The best way to communicate with somebody is to ask them a question and to listen to them. So take the initiative to ask your parents questions. Ask them about their day and what's going on in their lives. You can ask them about their marriage and ask them to teach you and to share with you something that they've learned over the years. Think of questions to ask them, and listen to them. That's one way of honoring them.

3. **Spend Time** with them

If there is one best way to honor our parents, it is to make time for them. Every one of us is busy and preoccupied with our concerns and daily activities. But if we really want to honor our parents, we must allocate time to spend with them.

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- a. Eat meals with them whenever possible

(There are some single adults who treat their house like a dorm –they come home to eat and sleep and they go out and do whatever they want to do.

For single adults: If your parents don't have a culture of having family dinners, why don't you be the one to initiate and say, "Hey dad, mom, do you think it'd be nice if we have meals together?" and be the one to try to start that culture in your family.

For parents: It is always a good practice to have a culture of eating meals together and that will mean a lot to the children growing up and to the entire family.)

- b. Join family affairs

(It is very important to stay connected with your parents and family. Joining family affairs will keep the bond strong among family members. Family events and affairs are opportunities to bond together as a family.)

4. Help out or volunteer.

(We talked about love as thinking about others as more important than ourselves. As adults, we honor our parents when we help out or volunteer. It can be as simple as helping them carry the groceries, doing some of the household chores, cooking, helping with the home repairs, etc. Ask them what you can do to help. These little things that you do for them show them that you honor and respect them. We honor them by returning the favor even though they are not asking for it, especially if they are old already.)

5. **Contribute** to the family budget/provide for them.

Read 1 Timothy 5:4, 8

(The Bible tells us to help take care of our parents and our family. Even if your parents do not require you to contribute financially to the family budget, it would always be pleasing to God if you initiate helping out financially. We honor our parents by helping them to provide for the family.)

C. Towards Siblings

1. Love them **unconditionally**.

Just as Christ loves us unconditionally, we should love our siblings unconditionally. Siblings have different personalities and calling in life. We must learn to work out our differences and love each other in spite of how God designed each one of us. God had placed us in our families so that we can care for and love each other.

(A lot of times we love, but we have a selfish kind of love. We love people, expecting them to love us back. But the Bible teaches unconditional love, so love your sibling unconditionally even though if they are unlovable at times. Don't expect them to love you back. Don't expect them to show any appreciation, instead lower your expectation.)

2. **Develop** your relationship with them by spending time, talking, praying together, ministering together and having fun.

(Your brothers/sisters long to spend time with you, even if they don't act like it. Take that initiative to invest in their lives and spend time with them while you are still single. Enjoy spending time together and have fun fellowship and prayer time together.)

3. **Be committed** to blessing them through meeting their needs.

- a. Guard against selfishness.

(Jesus tells us if you want to be great in His kingdom, you must be a servant – Matthew 20:26. To think about our siblings' needs is to serve them. Think of what will help or benefit your siblings and do it for them.)

- b. Don't be moody.

(Don't let your frustrations outside the home affect your relationship and attitude towards your siblings. For single ladies: don't allow the PMS to take over you, with the help of the Holy Spirit you can choose to not be short-tempered or unkind)

- c. Prioritize them.

(Show them that they are important to you. Prioritize your siblings in spite of the many competing things that you may also have in your life – work, friends, and ministry. But also set boundaries that will not make them dependent on you.)

Read Matthew 7:12

D. Towards Yourself

1. **Appreciate** God's design for you.

God has made you in a very unique way to have a very unique impact in this day and age. Whoever you are, appreciate how God made you. God made you for a unique purpose and you're complete; you don't need anything more. All you need is Him.

Read Colossians 2:10

(God tells us that He has given us everything we need. We are complete in Him. So as a single adult, if we really want to maximize our singleness for God's glory, we must be secure

in our identity based on who we are in Christ Jesus. All of us have a unique purpose that God has made us for. And until you find your identity in Christ, you will always be searching for something. We will feel insecure because there will always be somebody who's better than us or we will wish that we could do something else.)

- a. Thank God for the **unchangeable** in your life.

(Thank God for your gender, the time of history that you're living in and thank God for the family He has given you. There are many things that you can change but there are a lot of things you can't change. Let us not be discontented with what God has given us, because He has given us everything we need. 1 Peter tells us He has given us everything we need for godliness. Ephesians tells us He has given us everything we need to know Him.)

- b. Know that you are **complete** in Christ.

God can bring a person home to Him even before he ever gets married if God's purposes for his life are already fulfilled. So God's purposes for you can be fulfilled even if you're not married (just think of the example of Jesus Himself). The question is, are you willing to live out the purposes that God has made you for?

(You are complete in Christ. Jesus gives us the fullest satisfaction and fulfillment in life.)

- You have everything you need to be all that God wants you to be and to accomplish His plan for your life.
- You don't need a spouse to complete you.

2. Cooperate with God in developing your **full potential**.

Let's cooperate with God to become all that we were made to be. We have to develop all the areas of our lives (physical, mental, character, social, spiritual, etc.). You need to improve all

areas of your life so that you can be healthy and equipped to be used by God in whatever way He's uniquely made you to be.

Read Luke 2:52

(A lot of singles miss out on this because of the many things that are going on in their lives. They feel that they need down time to recharge, but instead they end up wasting a lot of time. You can invest time to help develop yourself to become all that God made you to be. Even in your spare time you can listen to CDs and read books that would help you grow in different areas of your life. Don't be afraid to fail.)

3. Maximize your gifts/talents.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:2

You are a steward of God's gifts:
Talents, Time, Treasure, Opportunities

- Be willing to take risks
- Get out of your comfort zone.

(We have to make the most of every opportunity we get. There are really only two things that matter in this world: our relationship with God and our relationship with people. So we should be intentional in everything, even with our relationships. Be willing to take risks. Get out of your comfort zone. Don't be afraid to expose yourself to opportunities that will stretch yourself and help you grow.)

4. Protect your purity.

(There are times that the Bible tells you to stand firm. There are times the Bible would tell you to resist the devil and he will flee from you. But there are times the Bible would tell you to flee like this verse: 1 Corinthians 6:18 "Flee from immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.")

Read 2 Timothy 2:22

Singles must save themselves for that person that they want to marry. The decision comes not at the moment of the temptation but that decision comes way before the temptation is there.

(Today's morality is different. Everybody has their own standard but the Bible's standard is very clear. God has a clear standard. The challenge is to keep yourself pure. This is a responsibility that singles must keep towards themselves. God made you and has a purpose for you. It's not about you. It's not about your pleasure but it's about God and what God wants to do in and through you. Why will you disqualify yourself from being used by God because of immorality? Purity then is very important in having that intimate relationship with God and being connected with Him and being used by Him.)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18

- a. Cultivate a pure heart before God – beware of curiosity.

(We can flee immorality by cultivating a pure heart before God. God has given us everything we need: the senses and the instruments within us to know Him. But the problem is we haven't utilized those instruments, because we are living in a physical world and instead we are consumed by our pleasure and misguided passions. Passion is good, but when you let your physical world consume you, then that passion becomes sensual and it goes out of control. That's why so many people are addicted, enslaved to pornography and sex because we were never supposed to let that part of our bodies have the greatest push in our lives. We are spiritual beings. God made you to know Him and He has given you everything you need to know Him. When you read the Bible God still speaks to you. He is speaking but we need to learn how to listen. Pursue God and what God wants to tell you. Pursue what God wants to do in and through you. When we pursue the superficial

stuff it becomes so strong in our lives, we get addicted to it and we get out of control.)

- b. Don't be a liability or cause pain to your family members.
- c. Flee from impurity.

Be careful of:

- What you see:
 - Pornography
 - TV programs and movies you watch
 - Magazines and books you read
 - Internet content
- What you listen to
 - Music
 - Conversation, jokes
- Where you go
 - Places that will tempt you to compromise your values
- Who you are with
 - Friends that will have a godly influence on you
 - Don't be alone with a married person of the opposite sex
 - Don't be alone with a person of the opposite sex in a private place. For immorality to take place, all you need is time, a place, and a person.
- Mind: "The will is no match for the imagination."

(We can flee from impurity by addressing our passion. One passion consumes another. We can develop a better passion. The better passion is to pursue God, to awaken the senses that He has given you, to truly know Him and experience Him. There's no greater thing in this world that can take away the joy of knowing Christ and of having Him in your life.)

E. Towards Others

(Single adults have also a responsibility to others who are outside of their biological family. As a single adult you can be a blessing to others as well.)

1. Be God's **ambassadors**.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20

(Because you have Christ in your life, you also have a responsibility towards other people. As an ambassador, we are representatives of who God is to this world. God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is of helping broken people living in a broken world come to know Jesus Christ. God will use the way He has made you to accomplish that.)

God has made each one of us in a certain way and has a special purpose for us to be His ambassadors. You and I have our own responsibility: think about your family, friends, community, school, church, offices and be an ambassador of Christ to them.

- a. By your behavior, attitude and conversation
- b. Share the gospel as a way of life (Pray, Care, Share)
- c. Be known for your good deeds that bring glory to God
- d. Be involved in Dgroups for accountability and spiritual growth
- e. Invest time in discipling others and in helping them disciple others

(If we want to be all that God made us to be, we need a mentor to help “pull” us up to help us become more like Christ, that is why we have Dgroups. But this is not enough, to grow, we also need a “push”. We are “pushed” when we also invest the time to disciple others – a friend, cousin, nephew, or anybody in your circle – and pour our lives to help them grow in Christ-likeness as well. As you do this, you need to explain to your

mentee or disciple that if you are going to disciple or mentor him, he also needs to find a mentee. That is how God designed us to be – He told us to go and make disciples of all nations. And you need to have those kinds of relationships in your life. That’s how you and I help people grow by putting them in the right environment.)

If you want to become all that God has made you to be, you need a mentor. We need somebody to pull us up in order to become what God has made us to be. A mentor is somebody who is pouring in to your life and pulling you up to make you more like Christ. That’s called the pull factor, but you also need the push factor. You also need to find somebody in your life that you can mentor or disciple, which you can pour life into. When you pour into their lives, your disciples or mentees actually push you up to become more like Christ.

2. Be a **blessing** spiritually, materially, emotionally.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

(In order to be a blessing, you should think of other people’s needs. If you want to be a blessing to people, think about others as more important than yourself. Serve them and be a blessing to them. Even if you don’t know what to say or do, just go and show love to other people. As you do that, you will find that God made you in a unique way that can best reach out to people around you.)

SESSION 1

COMMUNICATION AND RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS

Communication is very important in relationships, especially when it comes to your family. Most of the problems that arise in any marriage are because of poor communication between husbands and wives. When it comes to the parent and child relationship, communication also plays a very important role in dealing with the children.

I. Major Causes of Conflict in the Family

- **Money**
- **Expectations**

(Married couples have to be careful with expectations. Before you are married, you have certain expectations of what a husband or a wife should be. If you are not careful, after you get married, those expectations become obligations. Your relationship with each other is no longer romantic because in your mind you expect your wife to do this or that. The expectation now turns to obligation the spouse now is supposed to do. Imagine a relationship that is based on obligations. There will no longer be a romantic love. So be careful with expectations. Remember this quotation: "Increase your appreciation, lower your expectations.")

- **Selfishness**
- **In-laws**

(Speak well of each other in front of the in-laws, especially if you have conflicts with each other. Do not tell your parents if you have issues with your spouse. You should protect each other in front of your parents so that you will minimize conflict. If you have issues regarding each other's parents, do not confront your in-laws directly. Allow your spouse to speak to their parents or to create a solution for it. You schedule visitations with your in-laws. If you are secure in each other, you will be open to your spouse visiting their parents.)

- **Infidelity**
- **Different values**

(It is very important that spouses and children share the same set of values. When the children are growing up, we should teach them biblical values because if we have the same values our conflict will minimize.)

- **Poor communication**

Common Ways of Dealing with Conflicts

1. Ignore
2. Fight
3. Manipulate
4. Withdraw

(Many Asian families pretend that the family relationships are fine and so they ignore or withdraw. When things get out of hand, then that is the time where the couples fight. Many families become dysfunctional because of unresolved conflicts within the family. The fighting of couples has a negative impact on the children as well.)

II. Right Perspective on Conflict

Most of us are afraid of conflicts. That's why we don't speak up. Maybe, it will take a long time to train leaders and people to embrace this attitude. We need to have a positive attitude towards conflicts.

A. Conflict is inevitable.

Conflict is inevitable, meaning sooner or later you are going to experience conflict with your spouse or child because you have different personalities, preference, upbringing, etc. Conflict is basic to any relationship in your company, family, and especially in a church setting. Just because you have disagreement does not mean that you are not spiritual.

(A healthy family or church will surely have disagreements. Most people and leaders are afraid of conflicts. We don't want that people or leaders in the church disagree with each other. That's our culture, we don't want conflict. Conflict is not only inevitable, but conflict is also good when handled properly.)

B. Unresolved conflict affects relationships.

It is how we process the disagreement that matters because unresolved conflicts affect relationships. We can love each other and still disagree agreeably.

(We can respect other people's opinion but we can disagree with them. But eventually somebody has to make the decision and all conflicts must be addressed and resolved.)

C. Conflict can become a blessing when handled properly.

Don't be afraid of conflict and disagreements. The loudest voice does not always win. After discussing everything on what you have heard on every angle, the pros and cons, whether right or wrong, then you can come up with a decision. Now, that's when leadership comes in. The final decision has to be made by somebody only after discussing everything.

(Conflict is very good for an organization but you've got to learn how to handle it properly. When we have disagreements, we should welcome it. We should listen to each other. If you disagree you better speak up because your ideas may be better than the others'. Usually the majority will arrive at a good decision. When it's a moral decision, it is never by majority. When the Bible says something, that's it, you don't even discuss because it is something you are sure of. When it comes to moral issues, the Bible has the final say. There is no debate because we follow the Bible. We can entertain conflicts when if it has to do with style and preferences and has nothing to do with right or wrong (moral issue). We welcome conflicts and discussion on issues like ministry emphasis, what you do and don't do in the ministry, etc. Good communication skill is required to resolve differences in opinion.)

III. What is Communication?

- A. **Communication is a process where two or more people share in a meaningful exchange of ideas for mutual understanding.**
- B. **Communication is not what is said. It is what is heard and understood.**

You need to learn to listen very well. The best way to communicate is to listen. Good communication helps you to understand the person better. Good communication helps resolve conflicts and fosters intimacy. An insecure person or leader is always afraid to discuss. The point is not who's right or wrong, but determining the best direction to take.

(It is the leader's job to make sure that he communicates clearly. Don't blame the recipient because communication is not what is said, it is what is heard and understood. When you teach the Bible, make sure that what they hear and what you want to say is the same.)

IV. Why is Good Communication Important?

Good communication is important for healthy relationships. As we have said earlier, without good communication there will be no healthy relationships. It is very important in the workplace, in the ministry and especially in the family so that we can relate well with each other.

- A. **Communication helps you to understand the other person and better meet their needs.**

It is hard to know what the other persons' needs are unless they communicate it, whether verbally or non-verbally.

- B. **Good communication helps resolve conflicts**

Good communication helps you avoid unnecessary conflict. Good communication not only resolves conflicts, but it also avoids it.

Another blessing of good communication is it clarifies expectations.

(With regards to husband and wife relationships, we want to make sure we understand each other and our expectations from each other. What do you expect your wife, your husband to do? Make sure that's clear. If you have bad communication, conflict will be a certainty, or something unnecessary will happen.)

C. Good communication fosters intimacy.

V. What are the Hindrances to Good Communication?

What's hindering us from good communication?

A. Not listening

B. No time

C. Media – *(TV, social media, gadgets, etc.)*

(Social media is a real problem today especially among the youth and children. It can be addicting. In order to overcome the excessive use of social media, a simple suggestion is this: Before you engage in social media, read the Bible, let God speak to you and you talk to God in prayer and listen again to Him.)

D. Fear of conflict

E. Wounded spirit (“*tampo*”)

(Husbands know that there is a problem when their wives are suddenly quiet and they know that they are in big trouble. If your children stopped talking to you and during dinner time, your children or one of them is cold, you know that something is wrong. Do not pretend it will go away. You have to take time and talk to them.)

F. Unresolved conflict

VI. Open Communication on Various Levels

Open communication has various levels that people may go through. It is our hope that we will reach to the level wherein we can communicate openly who we are in transparent relationships.

A. **Cliché** - Non-Sharing

(Most of the time, we use clichés in talking to other people. This is the level where we share things about the temperature, weather, traffic, etc.)

B. **Fact** - Sharing what you know

(This is the level of communication where we share facts with each other. It is mostly sharing what you know. Men are usually good with this also. We don't mind talking about facts or information like about our politicians, etc.)

C. **Opinion** - Sharing what you think

(We share what our opinions are and what we think on certain things or issues.)

D. **Emotion** - Sharing what you feel

(This is the level where the men are struggling with. It is easier for women to share their emotions to other people.)

E. **Transparency** - Sharing who you are

(You can talk about many other things from cliché, fact, opinion, emotion, but above all, strive for transparency. Good communication means you can talk about your fears and anxiety, what is your dream and ambition in life, etc. That's the meaning of transparency. You can share your dreams without being afraid of being laughed at.)

VII. Principles of Good Communication

The Bible is very clear also about communication. These are some of the basic principles of good communication.

A. Make time to talk.

1. Schedule time to talk especially about deeper concerns.
2. Timing is important.

(People are so busy nowadays that you have to even schedule time with them. You will never have time unless you make time to what is important. Have you heard of people saying, "I don't have time?" We have to realize that time is a function of values. If you value somebody, you will take time. If you value God, you have time for Him. Look at how you spend time. The evidence of what is important to you is how much you spend time on it.)

B. Listen more.

1. Listening is a habit that needs to be intentionally developed.
2. Listening shows genuine interest in what the other person is saying.

(We need to learn and continually learn how to listen in order to show genuine interest in what the other person is saying. We need to listen to people. More importantly, we need to listen to our children, look at them in the eyes and ask them questions. Most parents talk and do not listen.)

3. Put yourself in the position of the other person to better understand them.

Read James 1:19-20

(As leaders, husbands and wives must put themselves in the position of the other person to better understand them. We must be sensitive to their situation and know where they are coming from. The verse is quite clear that we need to listen more and slow to talk.)

C. Ask questions.

1. Clarify – “Is this what you mean?”
2. Regularly ask family members, “How can I improve?”
3. Humbly listen to their suggestions and commit to change.

(The secret to good communication is really about listening and listening well. Listening is very important so that we can clarify things and hear out the deeper issues/concerns of the people we talk to. If we listen well, we will understand more without prejudgments. When we talk to people for accountability and correction, we must assure them that we love and care for them.)

D. Be aware of your tone, body language, and words.

(Body language and tone of voice is very important with communication. Have you tried looking at somebody’s eyes and can you tell whether that person is angry? The poison is coming out of their eyes figuratively.)

Whether you believe it or not, in communication only 15% is words and 85% has to do with tone and body language. Even in counseling, the body language is an indicator. When they sit and their arms are crossed, they might be telling you that they’re not open. Just by looking at their body language—how they sit, how they look at you—you can already tell and discover many things.

E. Speak the truth in love.

Speaking the truth in love is something hard, especially in Asia because we are afraid to offend people. Some people just speak the truth, and truth without love is painful. But if it’s all love without truth, it’s horrible as well. You have to combine truth and love.

Read Ephesians 4:15

(Now this is the hardest because sometimes the truth is painful. But if we don’t tell the truth, that means we don’t love the person enough. Most of us are not confrontational by nature but we must

learn to speak the truth in love because we need to for the sake of the people that we love.)

Read Proverbs 18:21

Read Ephesians 4:29

(Here are some observations in this passage that we can apply in communication: First, no unwholesome words should proceed from your mouth. Other words for unwholesome is garbage, meaning to say, anything that's negative is unwholesome. We should only speak words that are good for edification or encouragement – something that will build up people. When we say something, think of what will encourage the person. When we correct someone, we see to it that it should encourage the person. You can use the sandwich approach in correcting someone. The sandwich approach starts with positive, usually an appreciation and then in between, you can tell the person what needs to be improved or corrected, and then in the end you will affirm or encourage them. We need to practice this all the time.

Second, we look at the timing. It is stated there 'according to the need of the moment'. So it must be timely since timing is everything, so that we can give grace to those who hear. So that's how we communicate.)

A lot of husbands and wives hurt each other with words. We should not be careless with our tongue. We can be nice with other people but with our *family and kids, we are not*. We take our loved ones for granted. We must treat our family members, office staff, D-group members, etc. as important people. You can be in control with what you communicate and you must assume responsibility for it. You don't realize how much you can allow God to use your tongue and your life for his glory. The truth is we just refuse to assume control and responsibility.

VIII. How to Restore Relationships

Why should we focus on restoring relationships?

Read John 13:34-35

(Jesus commanded us that we are to love one another. That is basic and that is why we restore relationships.)

Read Matthew 5:23-24

(In addition to that, the Bible shows us in this verse how important it is for God. Remember that during those times, the place of worship is only in Jerusalem. People have to travel for days to reach it to be able to present their offerings to God. Therefore, when the Bible says that they have to leave their offerings and first be reconciled with their brother, it shows us how important restoring relationship to God is.)

A. **Initiate restoration of relationship.**

Romans 12:18

1. Unconditional acceptance
2. Proactive love

(In trying to reconcile with people, we must take the initiative and do our best to reconcile with that person. But as we can see in the verse, this may not be the case all the time. 'If possible' means that sometimes it is impossible. Sometimes there will be people that would not want to see us at first. Still, we must do our best to initiate the restoration of relationship. We should try a lot of moves for people to talk to us but if they don't want to talk to us, we should pray and keep on trying.)

B. **Ask for forgiveness.**

If you know that somebody has something against you and you have hurt them, the Bible says you ask for forgiveness.

1. Wrong way to ask forgiveness

- a. Sorry
- b. Forgive me

(In order to restore relationships, asking for forgiveness is very important. You initiate in the restoration process and then you ask for forgiveness. Simply saying “sorry, forgive me” is the wrong way of asking forgiveness because this will have no effect. It is too general, especially if done insincerely.)

2. Right way to ask forgiveness

Say something like, “I was wrong for (name the offense) and for my (identify the wrong attitude). Please forgive me for the pain it has caused you. I will improve. (To show genuine repentance)”

Be specific. Identify the offense, your wrong attitudes and the consequences of your offense in their life.

- a. Be humble.
- b. Be specific.
- c. Ask them to please forgive you. Give them a chance to respond.
- d. It is important to let them see your repentance by your willingness to improve.

(Notice that the major phrases are “be humble” and “be specific”. These will restore relationship. If you have children who are grown-up and they have not spoken to you for the last five years, you need to initiate and approach them.)

C. Major on the Majors.

- 1. Don't fight over every issue.
- 2. Give in to minor issues.
- 3. Learn to adjust.
- 4. Ask: Is it a moral issue? Will it matter 10 years from now?

(In keeping healthy relationships, don't make a small matter into a big thing. Don't sweat over the small stuff.)

D. Ask how you can improve.

(Asking how you can improve will work wonders in the relationship. A good proposal will be that if your husband or your wife asks this question, you will give a maximum of two suggestions. Don't come up with a piece of paper that has ten suggestions on how you can improve because they will be demoralized. Usually in a family setting, you can give just one suggestion so that after three months, you can ask again.)

1. Do this regularly.
2. Do not rationalize or defend yourself.
3. Listen.
4. Change for the better.

(In the family, when the children will tell something to their parents, the parents should listen carefully. The moment the parents start explaining or defending themselves, that son or daughter will no longer give suggestions in the future because they will feel that no matter what they say, you will always defend your behavior. Don't defend even if they're wrong at that time, just listen.)

E. Demonstrate Trust.

1. Avoid the “one-mistake” syndrome.
2. Avoid recalling their past mistakes.
3. Do not jump into conclusions.
4. Believe the best about the person.

We would like to emphasize that we need to avoid the “one mistake” syndrome. Just because a person made a mistake, you will say “one more time and you're finished”. Allow people to make mistakes. Be positive and encouraging even when they make a mistake. Whatever the situation is, the ultimate goal is to grow towards

maturity and Christ-likeness. If the situation calls for accountability and correction, we need to be positive and encourage the person to make amends and learn from his/her mistake and move on in his Christian walk.

F. Allow God time to work.

1. Give them time and space.
2. Allow God to work in your life and their lives.
3. Pray and entrust them to God.

The restoration of relationships between people may not happen overnight. God in His wisdom appoints the best time for it to happen.

(For example, you have somebody you want to meet because you want to be restored with that person. On his birthday, you can present a gift as a peace offering or as an initial step towards reconciliation and you can wait for a response. If you don't receive a response immediately, you can follow up and show them care in another way or occasion. If nothing still happens, that's okay, just give them time and space and allow God to work according to His timing.)

G. Be forgiving.

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover
that the prisoner was you.”

LEWIS B. SMEDES

(Some of us may be holding on to bitterness and holding on to anger. We need to learn to forgive. We cannot overemphasize this enough but the key to reconciliation is forgiveness. If you have somebody like your son, your spouse or your parents that you haven't spoken for the longest time be prepared to forgive them. You must forgive before you see them. And then take the initiative and go see them.)

True Forgiveness...

1. It is a **command**.
2. It is a choice.
3. It is not based on **feelings**.
4. It is based on God's **forgiveness**.

Most people are confused with what true forgiveness is. In their mind it's a feeling but don't be deceived. Forgiveness is a command. It's a choice and you choose to forgive the person. It's not based on feeling but it is based on God's forgiveness. Now how did God forgive us? God forgave us for all that we have done. We have done a lot of foolishness.

Read Luke 17:3-4

(Let us look at how God forgives us and how God wants us to forgive each other. The verse says that be on your guard if your brother sins, rebuke him. If he repents forgive him. If he sin against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, "I repent," forgive him.)

Read Matthew 18:21-22

(Now what if the person that you forgave does not repent? Let us see what Jesus has to say. In the passage above, Jesus is telling us that we need to forgive people seventy times seven. This passage means that Jesus is saying that we keep on forgiving. Don't have a limit to forgiveness. You might be thinking "What if they abuse me?" God will protect our interest. God will be the one to take care of how others will take advantage of us. Our job is to do our part of forgiving people and God's part is to take care of us. So, if people keep on taking advantage of us, we must leave it to God. God knows how to protect us and He knows how to bless us. But we must do our part, and that is to obey Him.)

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5. It is the **evidence** of genuine salvation.

Read Ephesians 4:32

(If we cannot forgive, we better check our salvation. Have you experienced forgiveness? Who are we to not forgive people? As followers of Jesus, you have no choice but to forgive because we have also been forgiven by the Lord.)

6. It is not **forgetting**.

7. It is a conscious **decision** not to hold the offenses against the person anymore, nor to make them suffer for their wrong doings.

Read Psalm 103:12

(Forgiveness is not forgetting, but it is a decision. You will not count it against the person anymore. Once you make a choice to forgive, God will help you remove the pain. God will help you overcome the struggles that you have. We have done many foolish things but God forgave us so that we can forgive others as well.)

8. It is accepting the **consequences** of the offense.

9. It is trusting in God to cause **everything** to work out for your good and the good of others.

(True forgiveness has consequences both to the offender and the offended. When you forgive you must accept the consequences. Sometimes the consequences are worse than the offense itself because it caused you so much pain. But you must forgive the person regardless of the consequences, and this is the key: trust God to cause everything to work out for good.)

Read Romans 8:28

- What happens to you is one thing. What you do with what happened to you is everything.
- How you respond to pain and trials doesn't automatically make you better.
- You must respond properly by assuming personal responsibility. Your responsibility is to forgive and trust God.



SESSION 5

ROLES OF PARENTS

Parents play a very important role in the spiritual development of their children. That is why parents need to know their biblical roles as mom and dad, and the goals of parenting according to God's will. The lessons or truths that you will learn here are unique because these are based on the Bible and has been proven to work.

I. What Parents Need to Know

A. Parenting is a sacred trust.

Read Ephesians 6:4

The word "sacred" simply means that it is something entrusted to you by God. It is stewardship that is not just secular and physical. It has a spiritual component so it is sacred. It is God's work entrusted to parents.

Read Judges 2:7-8, 10-12

(We can look at what happened to Israel to show us the importance of this sacred trust. The Bible tells us that Joshua, the first generation after Moses, served the Lord. And then the elders that survived Joshua served the Lord. And then the people that survived that generation also served the Lord. Then something else happened, verse 10 "...and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord," Now, we ask ourselves how that can be? It is because if you don't entrust that properly it's not going to be passed on.)

Just because you are a follower of Jesus does not mean your children will become followers of Jesus. And just because your children are followers of Jesus does not mean that your grandchildren will become followers of Jesus. Once you understand this principle, then you will see the seriousness of parenting.

(How do you know if someone follows the Lord? By their behavior and actions you can tell if your children are believers or not (verses 11-12). So don't deceive yourself when you see your children acting and living in a manner contrary to the word of God. This ought to make you pray and humble yourselves and go before God and

say, “Lord, something’s not right with my family.” Don’t go into self-denial, pretending everything is okay.)

Read 1 Samuel 1:3, 2:12, 3:13

The Bible tells us that it is very natural for people to go astray, just like in this case “they forsook the Lord” because they followed other gods from among the gods of the people. Today there are many gods that people worship such as money, sex, popularity, fame, etc. These are what our children face that make it so easy to forsake the Lord.

(Another case is in this verse where we can notice that the father Eli was a priest and his two sons were also priests. As priests they should know the Lord. It is possible for a father to pass on a career, an occupation but not the Lord. Eli was a priest and the two sons were priests, in theory they should know about God but notice what happened. The Bible tells us that the two sons of Eli were worthless men for they did not know the Lord.)

(These are priests but how can priests not know the Lord? Very simple, you can have religion but you don’t have a relationship with the Lord. It is possible for some people who are here today, going through all the rituals but in the eyes of God they don’t know the Lord.)

Read 1 Kings 2:27 cf.

(The case of Eli and his sons shows us the meaning of parenting as a sacred responsibility. Eli, the father was negligent in assuming parental authority. He did not rebuke the children and the Bible says that God was going to rebuke them. God was going to do something about the situation and was going to judge their family. When God passes a judgment, the effect is not immediate. But hundreds of years later, the judgment came through.)

(Look at what happened: “Solomon dismissed Abiathar— Abiathar was a descendant of Eli—from being priest to the Lord, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord, which He had spoken concerning

the house of Eli in Shiloh.” (1 Kings 2:27). The house of Eli never had priests again after that. It was taken away. That is something sobering for all of us. We pray that we will walk with the Lord, because what we do will have repercussions on our children, grandchildren and great, great grandchildren. So never ever imagine that your life is just your own. It does matter how you live today because it will affect your children, and your children’s children. This makes parenting a very serious matter.

B. Parents are responsible to train their children.

Read Proverbs 22:6

(People should not think that it is the school, the government, the church or CCF that ought to train their children. The parents are responsible to train their children. Parents don’t ever think that you can simply delegate this. You may delegate but you can never abdicate. Once you know you are responsible, you will want to learn how to be a good parent. But until you understand you are responsible, that it is a sacred trust— you won’t take your job seriously.)

C. Parents are not to exasperate their children.

Read Colossians 3:21

(Out of ignorance, parents exasperate their children. What does it mean to exasperate your children? You make your children’s hearts grow cold. So many parents rob the fire, the interest of their children. You rob them of that spirit. That is what we mean by exasperating them.)

How parents exasperate their children:

- ✓ Unrealistic expectations
– *(You have such a high standard that your children will never think they can make you happy.)*
- ✓ Unreasonable rules
- ✓ Failure to listen
– *(many parents don't listen. Your children are not rebellious but you have to listen.)*
- ✓ Temper
– *(control your anger and don't shout.)*
- ✓ Constant criticism
– *(don't always criticize rather affirm and encourage them.)*
- ✓ Failure to keep commitments
– *(If you made a promise be sure to fulfill it.)*
- ✓ Hypocrisy
– *(who you are on Sundays and in public should be who you are when at home and in private every day of the week.)*
- ✓ Favoritism
– *(treat your children equally.)*

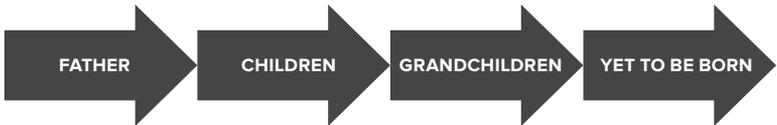
II. The Goals of Parenting

A. To pass on a godly heritage

Read Psalm 78:5-7

God's plan for us is to pass on a godly heritage. Do you notice the sequence? The secret of obedience is to know and trust God. The Bible is very clear that you should put your confidence in God. If you don't teach your children the realities of problems and trials, they will think God does not love them when they experience these.

(One thing that we must teach our children is that they need to trust God. We should help them understand that whenever bad things happen to them, it is not because God does not love them. God loves them no matter what. Satan's number one strategy is to cause us to doubt the goodness of God. The day will come when you encounter trials, problems, when your children will be disappointed, sickness, death, financial problems – whatever it is. Satan will cause your children to doubt the goodness of God. We must always humble ourselves and say, "Lord, teach me to put my confidence in You.")



Our prayer should be that our children will teach their children, and our children's children will also teach theirs so that this godly legacy will go on. Just one family will produce millions of followers. The Bible says Abraham was one, and God chose him. Today, if you look at the descendants of Abraham, they are millions. God can do amazing things through one family. God can do mighty things through you.

B. To develop their full potential - mentally, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually

Read Luke 2:52

Many parents are one-dimensional, especially here in Asia. Look at how Jesus grew in this verse: “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom”— that is the mental aspect. We send our children to school because we are focused on the mental development of our children. But Jesus also grew in “and stature”, that’s about physical development. You teach them how to exercise, to eat properly and to have physical discipline. And also “and in favor with God”, referring to the spiritual dimension and “and men” which involves the social and emotional needs of the children.

(We have to include all of the above with regards to their development. As parents, you have to train them and help them grow in Christ-likeness. If you don’t teach them, they will be influenced by their friends or society, and that’s why many children today have bad habits.)

C. To prepare them to face the challenges of the world.

Read Romans 12:2

Most people don’t realize that in college their children make major decisions: about boyfriends or girlfriends and about careers. Many times you send your kids away from you during college days, and that is a very crucial age for them. Your children’s elementary, high school and college years are most important.

The family is under attack:

1. Sexual promiscuity
2. Suicide

(Sexual promiscuity and suicide are closely connected. The moment you don’t treat the body with respect, when you devalue the human body as a sex object, you demean the sanctity of life. If the human body is just for sex and

for pleasure you will demean the significance and value of life. No wonder the next stage is suicide because people stopped respecting themselves.)

3. Drugs
4. Internet pornography
5. Gender confusion
6. Relativism (no absolute right or wrong)
7. Broken homes

D. To help them grow in character (Christ-likeness) and bring honor to God.

Read Galatians 4:19

Every parent's prayer should be that their children and grandchildren would grow up to love Christ and to be Christ-like. The goal of parenting is ultimately Christ-likeness.

The God Factor in Parenting

1. Secular Parenting
(parents use their wisdom to teach their children.)
2. Traditional Parenting
(you are affected by God and you teach your children about God, but that is not good enough.)
3. Biblical Parenting
(you allow God to touch your life and you were able to touch your children's life as well. You connect them to God and you let God deal with them. Parents cannot always watch their children, but God is always with them. Children should learn that they are not ultimately accountable to their parents but to God.)

It is no doubt that biblical parenting is the best style and should be practiced by all parents. It is our hope that all parents will embrace and apply biblical parenting in their families.

(Parenting is a very serious matter and so it is crucial that God should be at the center of it all. The goals of parenting will not be achieved if God is not involved in the whole process of parenting. Also a parent can achieve the goals of parenting if they can influence their children well. This can only happen if we practice the best parenting style.)



SESSION 1

HOW TO INFLUENCE YOUR CHILDREN

(As parents, intentionally or not, you will have different ways of dealing or raising your children that will have a very significant influence on them. In this session we will explore the different styles of parenting and the spectrum of the parent's involvement with their children. More importantly, we will be given some biblical laws and principles on parenting.)

How do you influence your family? We are not talking about controlling because it only works when your kids are small. You can control your children by your size, voice or by intimidation. But once your kids grow up, forget the word controlling. The key word is **influence**. Many parents like to control their children even when they are grown-up. They resort to using money to control them. However, this is not effective.

For single adults, you can also use these principles for your spiritual children. The same principles apply in disciplining people and of parents influencing their children.

I. Different Styles of Parenting

- A. Over-protective *(this results in insecurity)*
- B. Child-centric *(everything revolves around the child. The result is that you spoil your children.)*
- C. Peer *(You like your children to be your best friend. Nothing is wrong with being their best friend but the point is that you are still the parents. The result of peer parenting is that the parents will lose their children's respect. The children don't respect their parents anymore. You may think you are succeeding in parenting them when you act like their peers, but you must maintain your role as fathers and mothers.)*
- D. Passive *(Children will be lazy as a result of passive parenting.)*
- E. Dictatorial *(The problem with dictatorial parenting is that it will produce rebellion.)*
- F. Abusive *(Abusive parenting will produce distrust. The children don't trust their parents because the parents are abusing them.)*

G. Heart (*it is about passing on a godly legacy and how to influence their children.*)

Spectrum of Involvement

Absentee	Passive	Balanced	Controlling	Over-controlling
1	2	3	4	5

This is a spectrum of involvement when it comes to parenting. Some parents are just absent; physically or emotionally. Some parents are just passive while others are balanced. Some parents are controlling and some are over-controlling. As a parent, you must evaluate yourself what level of involvement you have with your children. More importantly, make changes in order to influence them positively.

II. Why focus on the heart?

- A. Man is more concerned about behavior.
- B. God is more concerned about the heart.
- C. Behavior is external. Heart is internal.
- D. Lasting change takes place in the heart.

(The heart determines the behavior. Ultimately it's the heart that we should focus. If you focus on the behavior, you are going to be surprised. Once your children leave your house and their heart is not transformed, they will go back to doing it their way.)

Read 1 Samuel 16:7

(This verse tells us that we should focus on the heart. God looks at the heart. Look at the main difference: External: 'what'- that's the behavior. Internal: 'why' – why are you doing this?)

External is all about being a people-pleaser, and impressing people but an internal focus is being a God-pleaser. External is about fear, what people will say. Internal is love and you behave properly because you love God.)

Focus: Heart Transformation

External	Internal
What	Why
Behavior	Heart
People	God
Fear	Love

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-7

(The most fundamental verses that deal with heart-parenting are found in the book of Deuteronomy. If you want to learn parenting, you master this particular chapter because it talks about parenting. These verses tell us that heart parenting is telling your children that it is to their benefit and blessing if they come to know God and to obey Him. These truths should appeal to their heart. If you force them in a certain behavior and in a certain way but they don't agree, how in the world can you touch the heart? Satan will tell them – 'don't follow God. If you follow God your life will be sad and miserable. You will miss out the fun of life.' That is Satan's ploy.)

We should be convinced that God loves us and that's why we want to choose His ways. We should be convinced that our ways are dangerous. But God's ways are the safest and the best for us. We may not understand it but we trust God. If we parents believe in these things

then heart parenting requires that our children will also have the same faith that we have.

Heart parenting means that parents must teach their children that they must trust God, believe that He loves them, and believe that He's wiser than them. They must believe that His ways are best for them.

III. The 8 Laws of Parenting (MOTIVATE)

M odeling
O pen Communication
T ime
I ntimacy
V ision
A ffirmation
T raining
E ntreaty

A. The Law of Modeling

Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7. *(These verses speak about lifestyle parenting. Note the passage's emphasis on sit, walk, lie down, and rise up. What is the principle being given here? How many positions can you have in the house? You can sit down, lie down or walk— in other words this is the principle of lifestyle parenting. It is called modeling.)*

Parenting Principle: "Lifestyle Parenting"

1. Children **copy** us either positively or negatively.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1

(What is the principle of modeling? It's simply this: Children copy us either positively or negatively. Parents don't need to tell their

children to copy them because children will copy them for good or bad. Don't tell them not to copy you either, because they will copy you for good or bad, that's the principle.)

No wonder the apostle Paul, one of the greatest disciple of all time tells people, "Be imitators of me, just as I am of Christ."

2. Values are **caught**, not taught.

"Your actions speak so loudly, I can't hear what you are saying."

Children catch the values that their parents model in their daily living.

Modeling is not about perfection; it's about authenticity. Children are good with copying, but they are never good at listening. So be very careful with how you live your life as parents because your children see you and copy your behavior whether for good or bad.

B. The Law of Open Communication

(Have you heard the saying that the problem between parents and children is a generation gap? That's not exactly correct. It's really a communication gap. Somewhere along the line we parents stopped listening to our children, and our children stopped talking to us. But open communication is so important to influence our children.)

The more you **communicate**, the more you can **influence** them.

Open communication means that the child feels safe and feels comfortable talking about anything that's in their hearts and mind. They share their dreams, fears and their worries because they feel they are safe. They will not be judged nor be criticized, but they will be helped.

Read James 1:19–20

(Open communication is so important and God has given us the formula to open communication in this passage. Examine yourself. Are we quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger?)

The communication style of most parents is quick to anger, quick to speak, and slow to listen. We have two ears and one mouth; that is why we need to listen more. This is God’s formula for good communication: you shall listen twice as much as you speak.

Parenting Principle: “You should listen to understand before you speak to be understood.”

(The problem with most parents is that our communication style is lecture. This is the least effective communication style. When we lecture our children, it just enters in one ear and out the other.)

1. The key to good communication is **listening**.
2. The more you listen, the more you **understand** them.

As parents, you want to know what is in their heart and what is in their mind. You want to understand them so that you can influence them positively.

3. Practical Application:
 - a. Make time. Don’t give busy signals.
 - b. Listen with full attention.

(Most parents have been guilty about this. Your kid wants to talk to you but you’re watching TV and you say, “Wait till the commercial. I’ll talk to you at the commercial.” We are so busy we try to squeeze them in, but this doesn’t make them feel prioritized. If you have you done that, then that’s not full attention. Give your children full attention, not busy signals.)

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- c. Listen to their heart/feelings.

(Until your child feels that you can understand their emotions, they will not listen to what you have to say because they feel you won't understand them.)

- d. Show interest. Ask questions.

(Parents need to show interest on the things that their children are talking about. You can do this by asking questions to draw out the reasons behind their questions, frustrations, or feelings.)

- e. Don't lecture.

- f. Do not react, raise your voice or get angry.

When you react, raise your voice and get angry, it slams the door on communication. It closes the door of open communication. Especially don't shout. Your children will be thinking, 'I don't want to talk to them ever again.'

(Shouting begets shouting. In most cases, parents that shout at their children, experience shouting from their parents as well. As we have been learning, children copy what we model.)

- g. Do not use: "You always..." "You never..."

Don't use words like "You always..." or "You never..." like, "you never clean your room". This just becomes a point of contention. Instead, you can say, "You know it seems like you don't clean your room often."

- h. Share your own stories and struggles.

- i. Ask, "How can I pray for you?"

There will be things that your kids will say that will make you react inside. Don't say something negative like "What! How could you do that?" Instead, ask questions, interact, and file it away. You can bring it up in the future, on a better time.

C. The Law of Time

(If you want to influence people, you've got to spend time with them. It is not only that you model, have communication and want to hear your children. You also need to spend time with them.)

Parenting Principle: “The more you spend **quality time** with them, the more you can **influence** them.”

Read Mark 3:14

(According to this passage, spending time with the people you want to influence is the model of Jesus. The verse says that He appointed twelve, so that they could be with Him. As you can see, Jesus is a genius on influencing people, and he does it by spending time with them.)

1. For children, **love** is spelled “T-I-M-E”

There is no such thing as quality time without quantity time.

(Don't deceive yourself into thinking that when its quality time, you don't need quantity time. For children, quality and quantity are together.)

2. Do what they **like** to do, not always what you like to do.
3. View time as an **investment**.
4. Be **available**.
5. Look for **magic moments**.
 - a. Times when they open up to you
 - b. Times when they invite you into their inner life
 - c. Times when they like to listen
 - d. You have to seize the moment when it comes.

Practical Application:

- a. Involve them in your schedule (grocery, exercise, business, hobby, ministry, and counseling).
- b. Meal times
- c. Fun time together
- d. Find ways to eliminate “non-essential schedules”.
- e. Touch their heart daily.

D. The Law of Intimacy

(To influence people you have to have relationships. Without relationships how do you influence them?)

Parenting Principle: “The closer the **relationship**, the greater the **influence**. “

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33

(No wonder when children become teenagers and they don't have good relationship with their parents, they gravitate to their classmates and their friends. And once they become close to their friends and not close to their parents they begin to be influenced by their friends.)

1. Biological relationship does not guarantee **good** relationship.
2. The power of influence is **proportionate** to the closeness of the relationship.
3. The closer children are to their parents, the **less** they are influenced by their peers and vice-versa.

(If the parents are not close to their children, the parents are not going to influence them. Your children's friends will always try to influence them. Try to remember when you were younger, where did you learn the foolish things in life? Did you learn it at

home or did you learn it at school with your classmates? You've got to develop good relationships with your children.)

4. They will eventually **oppose** our values if they do not have good relationship with us.

Practical Application:

- a. Date your children individually.
- b. Do things together.
- c. Know what they like and what they don't like.

(Focus on what they like so that they will look forward to it. If you give them a lecture every time you go on a date with them, they would not want to spend time with you anymore. So make it a fun time.)

- d. Know their strengths and weaknesses.
- e. Resolve conflicts.

(Parents should know if there's a conflict between siblings or the children with their parents. You can see it in their face, gestures, tone of voice etc. Take the initiative to fix their relationship.)

E. The Law of Vision

Parenting Principle: "Vision gives **direction**."

Read Proverbs 29:18

(Unfortunately, this is where most parents fail. They don't have any vision for their kids. They don't help their children catch God's vision for their lives, and they don't share God's vision for the children to them. So the children have no idea what God wants them to become someday because their parents have never casted a vision.)

Parents should show their children the big picture and guide them towards the fulfillment of God's vision for their lives. Children should

understand why they should be studying, why they should be working, etc. and its connection in the overall plan of God for their lives.

1. The **clearer** and **grander** the vision, the greater is the **motivation**.
2. Expect the **best**. Do not just see them as they are now but see what they can become in Christ.

Look at the potential of all your children and even the people you are discipling.

3. Be a **dream releaser**.

Read Jeremiah 29:11

(The Bible tells us God gives us vision, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’” It is very important then that parents give their children vision.)

F. The Law of Affirmation

When we talk about affirmation, it’s about using words. Words are crucial in influencing your children.

Positive words impact us **positively**. Negative words impact us **negatively**.

Read Proverbs 18:21

We should be careful with the words we utter especially when we speak to our children. It has to be positive because positive words are more powerful than negative words.

Read Ephesians 4:29

(This applies to everyone especially when dealing with your children. You must learn to encourage people and especially your children.)

Practical Application:

1. Don't compare them with others.
2. Don't label your children.
3. Use positive words in affirming and correcting (sandwich approach).
4. Compliment good character.

Compliment character more than external things. This is crucial for their spiritual development. Parents have to teach children the right values.

5. Affirm through affection.
6. Affirm through love.

G. The Law of Training

Proper training results in **transformation**.

Read Proverbs 22:6

(There's a big difference between training and lecturing. The Hebrew word for 'train' implies two things: it is used to describe a mid-wife helping a new baby develop appetite. The mid-wife will use her finger, dip it in some dates, put it at the back of the palate of the baby and the baby will begin to suck. It is to create a desire. The word 'training' is also used to describe how you deal with a wild horse. You break the will of the horse but not the spirit. A horse that is not trained is useless but you don't need to break the spirit.)

1. Training involves **teaching**. Teaching isn't necessarily training.
2. Training requires **intentionality**.

Training involves making something into a habit. It deals with repetition. It deals with the heart. The first thing you want them to learn about training is obedience.

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3. **Obedience** is the foundation of training.

Read Ephesians 6:1-3

4. Teach them about:

- a. Themselves
- b. Family
- c. Friends
- d. Courtship
- e. World
- f. God
- g. Why we believe what we believe

5. How to effectively train your children:

- a. Tell your child what to do and why.
- b. Show him how to do it.
- c. Do it with him.
- d. Let him do it.
- e. Correct and encourage him.
- f. Let him practice it until it becomes a habit.
- g. Make it enjoyable if possible.

*“Until the child has **learned** and **live out** what you have taught, **you have not trained.**”*

H. The Law of Entreaty

Only God can **transform** the heart through prayer.

Read Ezekiel 36:26

The most important thing for parents to do is to pray for their children. Entreaty means you pray and you keep on praying.

(The Bible is very clear, only God can transform the heart through prayer. The bad news is that you cannot do it, but the good news

is that God can. As this verse says, it is God who will give us a new heart and a new spirit. Parents pray for your children, before they are even born. You need to pray as they are growing up. This is the greatest thing that they can do for them. Parents should keep praying because it works.)

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17

The Bible says that we should pray without ceasing. The reason why you need to pray for your children is because of the spiritual component of every human being.

1. There's a God-shaped **vacuum** in the heart of every person including our children. Only God can **fill** that void and emptiness in us.
2. Children are not just physical beings. They are also **emotional** and **spiritual** beings

“When we work, we work; when we pray, God works.”

Children Learn What They Live

by Dorothy Nolte

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
he learns to find love in the world.



SESSION 7

WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN (PART 1)

Godly parents are to teach and discipline their children in the way of the Lord so that they will grow into Christ-likeness. The main responsibility of parents is to provide biblical instructions to their children so that they can live blessed and fruitful lives. In this session, we will orient the parents to teach their children about themselves, family, friends and courtship. We will also explore truths or lessons parents need to teach their children.

(Until parents learn how to influence their children, understand their role as parents and husband and wife, it will be hard to teach their children. Teaching is not just talking. We have learned that teaching is also modeling. If you don't support teaching with modeling, all your teaching will be useless. That's the reason for teenage rebellion. Teens rebel because they have come to a point in their lives where they are sick and tired of the hypocrisy they have been facing in the home. And suddenly they have the guts to say no to their parents. When they are still small they keep saying yes to them. If the children disagree with their parents, they will just keep quiet because they are afraid of their parents. But the day will come, because of the parent's inconsistent lifestyle and teachings, the children will be disrespectful. Parents will be shocked why they disagree with them now and why they openly rebel against their parents. The reason is that parents have not followed many of these principles that we have studied. So if you just focus on today's session on what to teach your children, it can help you a lot.)

I. About Themselves

“If our identity is in our work, rather than Christ,
success will go to our heads and failure will go to our hearts”

TIMOTHY KELLER

The value of an object is dependent on how much you are willing to pay for it. We are valuable because God paid with His own Son to redeem us.

(The first thing we have to teach our children about themselves is who they are. It's called identity. It is about their self-worth. Where do we get our self-worth? Some people get their self-worth from money, possessions, and from connections. Many times, many young people value their self-worth from the approval of their friends. And the moment

their friends don't approve of them they feel horrible. But it's because we never told them where to get their value and self-worth)

(Imagine a Php 1, 000 peso. The value of the bill is not dependent on its cleanliness. It's not dependent on what has happened to it even if you trample it and it becomes dirty or crumpled. There is still value in it even though it is already crumpled and dirty. In the same manner you need to understand your own self. How people treat you and what they say about you does not determine your value.)

A. God sees them as special and precious.

Read Psalm 139:14

(What did God pay for your soul? How much did He pay for you?)

The Bible tells us that Jesus paid with His life. You are precious. You are valuable because God paid for you with the life of His Son.

(If your children don't understand this, they will find their self-worth from friends, status, or material things .If you find your self-worth from your business, if your business fails then what's going to happen to you? We should find our own identity in Christ. We should teach our children, especially when they are younger that God sees them as special and precious.)

B. God has a wonderful plan for them.

Read Jeremiah 29:11

(God has a wonderful plan for your children. You are precious because of God's plan for you.)

C. They are to develop God-confidence and not self-confidence.

Read Philippians 4:13

(The Bible tells us that you are to develop God-confidence and not self-confidence. What does it mean? Many people today like to teach that you can do anything what you want to become. They teach a lot of self-confidence and self-affirmation that is doomed to failure.)

We have to teach our children to develop their confidence in Christ. Teach them that their identity is tied up with Jesus.

(As the passage states, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Parents should teach this to their children so that they will realize that their identity is tied up with Jesus.)

D. God wants them to be thankful.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18

(We want to teach our children that they should be thankful because the Bible says that in everything, we give thanks. Do you know that researchers have discovered that mental health has a direct correlation with gratitude and thanksgiving? We need to teach our children to be grateful and to be thankful. We should be very intentional. There should be times that parents will purposely teach their children the simplicity of life so that everything they have becomes precious.)

Thank God for the **unchangeables**:

1. Parents *(Some people don't like their parents, but you cannot change the fact that they are your parents. So let's be thankful for them.)*
2. Brothers/Sisters
(Learn to appreciate your brothers and sisters.)
3. Gender *(Be happy whether you are a boy or a girl. Don't try to change your gender.)*
4. Birth order

-
5. Race *(Appreciate the color of your skin and your race. Many Filipinos would go to the United States to change citizenship and become an American. However, no matter what you do, even if you can speak English well, you are still a Filipino. God made you in such a way, so be thankful.)*

6. Physical features

(When it comes to your physical features, you change whatever you can. It's okay to have a new hairdo or enhance your physical appearance by proper hygiene and good grooming. But there are certain features that you cannot change. In the morning when you look in the mirror, you say, "Lord I thank you. This guy looks good, thank you." Are you grateful with how you look? Some of us are not. In counseling sessions, we know that hurting people hurt others. Unhappy people reflect unhappiness. And many times parents think the problem is with their children. But parents have never dealt with their own identity. Some of you, your husband left you or you are not loved. You carry that for the rest of your life and it's affecting your children because you're getting your self-worth from how people are treating you. You need to repent on that. You need to say, "Lord, I thank you, I made lots of mistakes but because of You I'm a new person now." So be grateful and teach your children to be grateful as well with how they look.)

7. Time in history

(Some of you wish that you were born in the days of Jesus. What would've happen is that you would've have crucified Jesus along with all those people! So let's be thankful we live in this time of history where we are free to believe in Jesus and live out our witness for Him. And so we should make the most of this privilege.)

E. God wants them to be responsible for their choices.

Read Galatians 6:7

(We should teach our children to be responsible for their choices. Most young people are never taught to assume responsibility for their choices because their parents interfere. Every time when there is a problem their parents will intervene. When there's a problem at school, their parents intervene. If that's the case, the parents will not be able to teach their children that their choices have consequences.)

1. Choices have consequences. They are free to choose, but not free to escape the consequences of their choice.
2. Consequences are not always immediate.

(Some choices have long-term consequences and you might think that you're getting away with it. Your children might also think that they're getting away with it. For example, those children who are lazy and are not disciplined, the consequences may not be immediate because the father is there to give them money or the father is there to provide for them. But what's going to happen if these children grow up not disciplined. Just think of the long-term impact when daddy and mommy are no longer around. There are long-term consequences that are not immediate.)

3. The choices they make will impact their future.
4. The vision of the future should impact their present choices.

The 3 most important choices they will make:

- a. Master
- b. Mate
- c. Mission

(These are the questions that your children need to ask themselves. Who's going to be your master, Jesus or yourself? Who's going to be your mate? What will be your mission? You teach your children that these are major decisions. And hopefully you are involved in all of the three.)

II. About Family

(Family relationships last for a lifetime so children must learn...)

A. They should value and spend time with their family.

Read John 15:12

The Bible tells us to love one another. Our first 'one another' is our family member.

B. They should treat family members with respect.

Read Matthew 7:12

(Have you seen your children being nicer to other people than to each other? They should realize that even though they are nice to their friends, someday their friends will leave them, but family members are supposed to remain in each other's lives. So we teach them to appreciate their family members. And the way you do that is to teach them as early as possible. Parents should also teach them to treat others with respect and not just their family members.)

C. They should forgive each other.

Read Ephesians 4:32

We ought to make forgiveness a culture in our families. We are going to disappoint each other, willingly or unwillingly. We should teach our children to forgive each other.

(Is there anybody in your life that you have bitterness or anger against? We must be able to honestly say that we don't have anybody that we are bitter or angry against. If not, we are living in

sin. And once you live in sin, you have no power, real joy, and real peace. You are living in disobedience. So for our family members, we make sure we forgive and ask for forgiveness. Is God bringing to your mind somebody? God commands us to forgive one another as can be found in the passage above. Therefore, if you're angry and bitter against anybody, you are living in sin. Do not also let your children live in sin.)

D. They should become givers, not takers; to serve and not to be served.

Read Philippians 2:4

E. They should invest in the lives of other family members.

Read Matthew 6:21

(The Bible says that where your treasure is there your heart will be also. One of the reasons that family members love each other is because they spend time with each other. Time is precious (like a treasure) and when you spend time with each other, you get to love them. If we do this, the family members' best friends are each other. They should love each other and become their best friends.)

The way they treat their family members is how they will treat their future family and others.

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2

(If your son is courting someone, he must look at how that girl treats her family members. Because the way that she treats her family members is how she is going to treat him someday. If she is disrespectful to her parents and siblings, someday when they get married, that will be the way she is going to treat him. Our children should learn how to observe their boyfriend or girlfriend in a family setting. They just watch how they treat each other.)

(All the family interactions will teach the children how they will relate to others when they grow up. If the children don't know how to treat each other in the family, later on in life they will also not know how

to treat others. This is because their parents have not taught them how to treat one another well while growing up.)

III. About Friends

(It is natural and healthy for our children to have friends for their social and personal development, therefore they must learn...)

A. Their friends will influence them either positively or negatively.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33

(It's a guarantee, your children's friends will influence them for good or bad. Many of us don't realize the power of the influence of friendship. So we need to teach our children how to choose friends because they will be impacted. Look at what the Bible says, "Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts.")

B. They are to choose their friends.

Read Proverbs 13:20

(Most parents don't even teach their children how to choose their friends. If we don't teach our children how to choose their friends, just remember that their friends will influence them. The problem is that even some of us that are adults already don't even know how to choose our friends. We hang around with the wrong crowd. So pray that you will learn how to choose your friends. We can have all kinds of friends but our 'barkadas' should be selected. We should be careful and don't hang around with people who will influence us negatively.)

C. Friends will leave them, but they will live with their decision and the consequences of their choices.

(Your friends will someday leave you but you cannot leave yourself. It is you who will live with your decision. You live with the consequences of your choices. For example, if your daughter engages in premarital sex because the boy tells her that he loves her and if she got pregnant, that boyfriend leaves her. She will be the one who suffers the consequences.)

D. It is impractical to have a boyfriend or girlfriend early (high school or college) until they are ready to get married.

(Hormonal changes are normal when kids reach their teenage years. They will naturally be attracted to a boy or a girl. Parents have to guide their children, that while this is normal, they don't have to have a special boyfriend or girlfriend until they are ready for marriage. Here are the blessings of without having a boyfriend or girlfriend that we can teach our children:)

A. Protecting the 5 Freedoms:

a. Freedom from distraction.

(If you don't have a boyfriend or girlfriend, you can focus on your studies. You can focus on other things because you don't have a specific person to attend to and spend time with.)

b. Freedom from unnecessary pain.

(Because when you have a boyfriend or girlfriend and when you break up, you will experience pain. Why do you want your children to experience those pains early?)

c. Freedom from isolation.

d. Freedom to develop God's gift and pursue God's will.

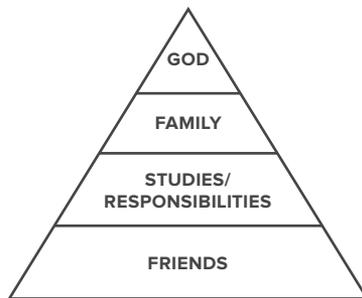
(Now some of us made mistakes in the past. Remember that you cannot change your past, but you can teach these lessons to your children. Now beware of giving yourself excuses. Don't think that since you were bad before and God redeemed you, it is okay for your children to also have bad experiences because God will save them anyway. No, avoid unnecessary pain for your children.)

e. Freedom from immorality and its consequences.

(The problem with those in a girlfriend and boyfriend relationship is that most of them do not plan to have

premarital sex especially when it comes to Christians, but they still end up in trouble. A lot of Christians plan to be holy. They plan that their relationship will be honoring to God. But because of the power of their hormones and the power of physical attraction and temptation, if you don't guard yourself against these things, you're going to mess up.)

B. The importance of **priority**.



Every family should understand the importance of priority. Parents should make sure that their children understand that God is number one, their family is number two, their studies or responsibilities is number three, and their friends is last.

(Most of our children have inverted pyramids. Their number one is their friends because they get their self-worth from them. They get their affirmations from friends because they are not getting it from their parents. So parents if you are not close to your children, they will feel empty. And if you don't teach them about God, they will want to get their self-worth from their 'barkadas' and that's the beginning of your problem.)

C. What to do if you do not approve of their friends:

- a. Do not attack their friends.
- b. Get to know their friends.
- c. Open your house as a place for them to invite their friends over.

-
- d. Focus on intimacy rather than using intimidation to influence your children.
 - e. Try to positively influence their friends.
 - f. Let your children know you are on their side.

(Let your children know you are on their side so that your children will realize that you are not biased. Most of you may don't approve of your children's friends. Don't shut them away because the moment you attack their friends, they will defend their friends. Get to know their friends and try to positively influence them.)

IV. About Courtship

A. Difference between Dating and Courtship

1. In the modern dating scene, you usually hide all your faults to give a false impression about yourself, so that your partner will like you.
2. Recreational dating is about self-gratification ---- you date to satisfy your own needs.
3. Intimacy is usually practiced before commitment.

B. Principles of Courtship:

1. Parents should teach their children to:
 - a. Be the **persons** God wants you to be.
 - b. Be able to **support** a family (for the men).
 - c. **Serve** with other Christian singles in groups.
 - d. Be aware of the **qualities** to look for in a future spouse.
 - e. **Involve** your family and friends in group date settings.

(Aside from teaching the principles of courtship, parents should

also teach their children about the qualities to look for in their future spouses. This is not an exhaustive list. You can create your own. Teach your children even while they are still young and keep on repeating it to them.)

2. Some qualities to consider:

a. Loves God and others

b. Hardworking

(Being hardworking is more important than money. If somebody is a hardworking person he will never be hungry. He will provide well. Most young men fail to understand that when we teach that they need to be able to support their family, we do not mean that it is like what their parents are doing now. Since they are newly married, we cannot expect them to live in a five bedroom house. Start small and live simply.)

c. Eager to serve

d. Has good E.Q.

(Having a good 'Emotional Quotient' is very important in marriage. If their boyfriend or girlfriend is very sensitive or "KSP", this becomes an issue when they get married. Don't let your children pursue their relationship because they are going to have problems in the future.)

e. Trustworthy – integrity

(If their boyfriend or girlfriends are lying to them now, there's no trust. Someday they'll lie to them also when they are already married.)

f. Disciplined

g. Not materialistic

(They should want to marry somebody who is disciplined and not materialistic. Why is being not materialistic important? It is a big challenge to deal with somebody

who is materialistic. You can never make enough money to make them happy.)

C. Twelve Guidelines of Courtship:

1. Pray for God's best.
2. Be proactive (for the men).
3. Be observant of the people in the Christian groups that you know.
4. Be courageous to approach the person you are interested in (for men).
5. Be approachable, friendly and responsive (for the women).

(If you are a woman, don't play hard to get. Be nice and respectful but don't play games with men. Men, if there is any girl that is playing with you, just give her one chance so that you will not be heartbroken. By doing this, God will protect you from unnecessary pain.)

6. Get your parent's and family's opinion and approval.
7. Be intentional in getting to know each other.
8. Pray specifically for God's will in your relationship.
9. Get the opinion of your spiritual leader and family members - parents.
10. Get the approval of your parents for marriage.
11. If you have God's confirmation and parents' approval, then get engaged. Engagement should be short.

(If the two of you have already God's confirmation and your parents' approval, you can then get engaged. Engagement should be within a short period of time. Long engagement is dangerous and there's no reason for long engagement. The encouragement is that if you are sure, then get married.)

-
12. Guard your purity during this time for you are more vulnerable to temptation.

(This will be the case especially when you're engaged already because you think you are sure and you begin to be careless. And many times if you are not careful, you will end up having sex. So these are some guidelines. We are just giving you some bird's eye view on what to teach your children about courtship.)



SESSION 8

WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN PART 2

In this final session, we are going to continue on with what we have discussed last time, which is about the important lessons that we teach our children. We are going to talk about what we teach our children about the world, God and why we believe what we believe in.

I. About Money

(Number of times the Bible talk about the following:

Pray	-	371x
Believe	-	275x
Love	-	714x
Give	-	2,162x
Money, possessions	-	2,350x

(In the Bible, money and possessions are being discussed extensively; even most of the parables of Jesus were about money. This is because how we deal with money is a reflection of the heart. And many of us are lousy when it comes to dealing with money because we didn't learn about these things. Nobody has taught us. You were not able to teach your children that money really affects their entire future. Money is not the most important thing but it is very important in one's life. Parents really need to teach their children early about money. We heard today that the 'Millennials' do not know how to save. They think they will always have money, and that's a problem today. They live with an entitlement mindset.)

A. God owns everything; we are managers, not owners.

Read Psalm 24:1

(We teach our children that we are just managers and not owners. It means that we are not free to spend money the way we want it. Every spending decision is a spiritual decision. Until we fully understand this, we will be robbing God of His money because we don't own the money. God has ownership of everything we have and we are to manage it well.)

B. We are to work hard.

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10

C. We are to learn contentment.

Read 1 Timothy 6:6

D. We are to be faithful in tithing.

Read Malachi 3:10 (*The word tithing simply means 10%.*)

E. We are to be generous in giving.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

(Tithing is not yet giving. Giving is over and above tithing.)

F. We are to avoid borrowing.

Read Proverbs 22:7, Romans 13:8

(It's so important that we avoid borrowing as much as possible. We have to learn how to save. How do we save? Let us look at these examples and see the power of compounding interest. If you save 1,000 a month at the age of 20, by the time you are 65 years old you have 2 million pesos. Now, you can save more than 1,000 a month. Just avoid going to Starbucks, eating out and watching movies. Here are another set of examples:)

Teach Your Children How to Save: Compounding Interest

If you start saving at 20 years old...

PHP2,000/month	40 years old	65 years old
5% per annum	PHP825,492.62	PHP4,069,761.57
10% per annum	PHP1,531,393.82	PHP21,139,711.78
PHP3,000/month	40 years old	65 years old
5% per annum	PHP1,238,238.62	PHP6,104,642.35
10% per annum	PHP2,297,090.73	PHP31,709,567.68

(We must be reminded of the quotation that goes something like this: make as much money as you can, save as much as you can and give as much as you can. If you love God, everything will be fine. But if you don't love God and you love money, then you are in big trouble. Let us be reminded that when we die, we bring nothing with us.)

II. About the World

(Christians are in the world but are not to be conformed to the world, therefore children must learn...)

A. Do not to be conformed to the world.

Read Romans 12:2

(This is an amazing grammatical construction. The Greek rendering is this: do not be conformed, meaning that they are already being conformed. The grammar states that we are already being conformed by the world and the Bible says that we are to stop being conformed. We should stop copying the world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind. If we look at the world

today, our values are shifting and we are copying the world. Moral standards are changing. When we were younger, divorce is unheard of but today divorce is common. Single-pregnancy is not uncommon nowadays. Values have changed and we need to teach our children to not copy the world. For example, if you want to grow a square watermelon, you put it into a mold and it will conform to its square shape. And that's exactly what the world is doing. The world is putting your children in a mold. So by the time they have finished college, they have been conformed to the image of the world on values, marriage, purity and everything. So don't be surprise why there's a lot of heartaches and sadness.)

B. Stand up for Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:9

(We need to teach our children to stand up for Christ and remind them that we are to please God. Friends are powerful influences, so you need to teach your children to stand up for God. We need to teach our children to be willing to stand alone. Your children cannot stand alone if they are not connected to Jesus. Why would they stand alone if they are not secure in Christ?)

“If you have to be wrong to be in the team,
you're in the wrong team.”

CHUCK SWINDOLL

C. Do not to love the world but influence the world.

Read Matthew 5:13–14, 16

(We should teach our children to not love the world and instead influence it. You are not to be a passive victim but an influencer of the world. For the past hundred years, Christianity has misinterpreted the Bible. So they get out of politics, the movie industry, in big businesses, etc. In their minds this is all worldly. But God tells us to be in the world but not of the world. So what has happened to

Christianity? We allowed the media, the movies, and everything to be controlled by unbelievers. No wonder we have wrong values because Christians are running away from the market place. CCF has discovered that God has called us to be in the market place. We encourage people to be successful in their businesses in order to influence their company for Jesus. So we encourage everyone, wherever we are to be salt and light of this world.)

III. About God

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

A. W. TOZER

Our view of God affects our entire life. It is not enough to believe in God, they should learn that...

(What A. W. Tozer says is that we are all theologians in our own right. The only difference is whether you are a good or bad theologian. We either have good theology or bad theology. All of us right now have a concept of who God is. Even before coming to CCF, you have an idea of what God is like. You may not have given it much thought but you have an initial idea of who God is. And that is the most important thing about you.)

(Let me give you an example: if you are hungry and you are tempted to steal, your theology kicks in. If you believe that God loves you and that God will provide for you, you will not steal. However, if your theology is weak, you believe that God is there but God is not almighty, you will compromise. Let me give you another example: If you believe that God is everywhere, and sees everything, if you are tempted to have sex or to rob a bank, you will not do it. You know why, let us look at it this way. If I happen to tell you that I have a video camera in this room, will you ever bring a girl and have sex in this room knowing that tomorrow morning what you did will be televised? Will you ever rob a bank and the next day, your face will be flashed in the newspaper or be in the headline all over the media? Will you commit immorality knowing what's going to happen to you the next day? It's all about theology.)

A. God is good.

Read Psalm 136:1; Romans 8:28

(We must remember in our hearts that God is good. There should be no doubt about it. We believe that God is good, so in our hearts we have to reconcile now if something bad happens to us. We don't judge God based on what happens to us. We judge what happens to us based on who God is. God is good, and when something bad happens, we will not question God because God is good.)

B. God is love.

Read John 3:16; Romans 8:32

(We also believe that God is love. That's what the Bible says, God loves us. So, if God loves us and He allows bad things to happen to us, what do we do? In times of trouble, we must remember what the Bible said, "He who did not spare His own son, delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).)

C. God is omniscient.

Read Psalm 139:2–4, 6

(Omniscient means all knowing. We must believe that God knows everything. God is omniscient.)

D. God is sovereign.

Read Psalm 135:6; Luke 1:37; Romans 8:28

(The Bible tells us that God is sovereign. God is almighty. Whatever the Lord pleases, He does. The Bible tells us nothing is impossible with God. There are no accidents in the lives of God's children. God is almighty and He knows what's going to happen. We know God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose. God

is good but the goodness of God does not exempt us from trials. In the midst of trials, God is going to accomplish His purpose and that purpose is good. We don't know how good that's going to be. We don't know what's going on in each other's life, but we've got to teach our children these basic truths about God.)

E. God is holy.

Read 1 John 1:5; 1 Peter 1:16

(We tell our children that God is holy. The word 'holy' simply means that God is absolutely pure. He has no evil intention. The Bible tells us that "...God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." We can trust God completely. Satan's strategy in the Garden of Eden was to tell Eve that God is not after their best interest. That God is not good because God does not want them to eat the fruit. God is depriving them of something that's good for them. We can see that those are the kind of temptations that our children will also face.)

F. Jesus is the coming Judge and King.

Read Romans 14:11–12

(We tell our children that Jesus is the coming Judge and King. We tell our children that at the end of the day, they are accountable to God just as the passage above states. Ultimately we are all accountable to God. It is futile and it is totally counter-productive to blame people for our behavior. People are going to disappoint us. Church leaders will disappoint us, your area pastors, your Dgroup leaders and in fact you will disappoint yourself. But at the end of the day, you are accountable to God. Each one of us will give an account of ourselves to God, and that is very sobering. It gets us in the straight path. Let us teach our children that He is coming again.)

G. God is a rewarder.

Read Hebrews 11:6

(We have to teach our children that God is a rewarder. As the

passage states that “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Why will we seek God if we don’t believe that He is a rewarder? We have to live with eternity in view. Live with eternal perspective, and don’t be afraid of problems.

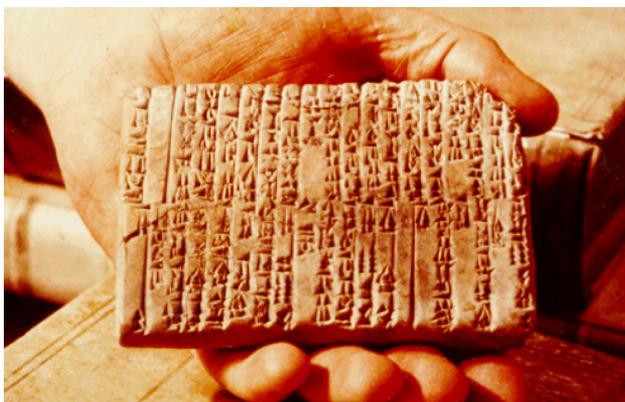
As parents, we must model faith in God to our children to help train them on how they will face trials in the future. We cannot have faith in God if we don’t know Him. If we don’t believe God properly, why would we commit our lives to Him? Our children watch us on how we analyze situations and how we deal with disappointments and problems. In situations like when you are fussy, when you are throwing a tantrum before God, your children will look at you. When parents do those things, they are telling their children that God is bad. Modeling about your relationship with God is everything.)

IV. Why We Believe What We Believe

Our beliefs are based on the Bible. The Bible is our sole rule of faith and conduct. We believe in the Bible because of the following reasons:

A. Archaeology

1. Ebla Tablets



(Years ago, people questioned the book of Genesis and attacked it. They never believed the story of Sodom and Gomorrah because there's no such place that has been supported by any archeological findings. There are five cities mentioned in the book of Genesis when Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed. Everybody laughed at the Bible because there were no archeological findings. Then they discovered the Ebla tablets in Syria. These tablets dated back to almost 5,000 years ago, at around 2,000 B.C. This is the most well preserved library in the whole world— an ancient library. 15,000 tablets were discovered and it mentioned Sodom, Gomorrah, Adma, Zeboim and Bela. This is exactly according to the sequence of the book of Genesis.)

2. Dead Sea Scrolls



(Another great archeological discovery: the Dead Sea scrolls. Discovered in 1947 and was found in the Qumram Caves. These are ancient manuscripts preserved for thousands of years that contained all the books of the Old Testament except the book of Esther. Skeptics got so excited and thought that they could prove the inaccuracy of the Bible. They compared the present copies of the Book of Isaiah with the 24-foot long scroll they found of the entire book. They checked the entire Chapter of

Isaiah 53 and found that of the 166 letter only 17 letters were questionable – 10 due to spelling, 4 due to writing style, and 3 letters that are different, which all in all does not change the meaning of Isaiah 53. Remember that Isaiah 53 is a prophecy about Jesus the Messiah.)

3. Erastus Inscription



(People used to question the Bible because they believed that there is no such title as a ‘City Treasurer’. They claim that there is no such guy called ‘Erastus’ as stated in Romans 16:23 and 2 Timothy 4:20 where the Apostle Paul talks about ‘Erastus the City Treasurer’. However if you go to Corinth today, you will see that there is an archeological finding with an inscription of ‘Erastus, City Treasurer’.)

(Every time people question the Bible, don’t panic. There has been no archeological discovery so far that has ever contradicted the Bible. Up to this day, there had been zero archeological findings that will contradict the Bible from places, to character and to events.)

BOOK	AUTHOR	WHEN WRITTEN	1 ST COPY	TIME SPAN	# OF MSS
Iliad	Homer	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
History	Pliny	61-113 AD	850 AD	750 years	7
Republic	Plato	437-347 BC	900 AD	1200 years	7
Metaphysics	Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1400 years	49
History	Herodotus	480-425 BC	900 AD	1300 years	8
New Testament		48 AD	130 AD	80 years	24633

(To further elaborate on the power of archeology, let's look at other historical artifacts that are recognized by the world – Iliad by Homer, Republic by Plato, History by Pliny. Let's just look at one famous book, 'History' by Herodotus. It is very famous and if you study literature you will never miss Herodotus. It was written more or less 480-425 BC during his lifetime. The earliest copy we have of 'History' is 900 AD. And the time span is 1400 years. Notice the time difference. How many copies do we have, 8 only and yet nobody question Herodotus' 'History'.)

(Let us now look at the New Testament. It was written in 48 AD and more or less up to 70 AD. The earliest copy we have is 130 AD. It is just 80 years apart, in other words the earliest copy was found in their lifetime. And we have 24,000 copies of those manuscripts. Archeology then proves to us the accuracy of the New Testament.)

(However, we do not consider the book of Thomas, the book of Judas. They are not included in our Bibles today because they were written not within the time span the New Testament was written. These books were written about 300 AD and are not respected documents. There had been issues regarding the accuracy of the Bible because fictional literature like The Da Vinci Code used it as a basis. If we do not study history and do

not look at the archeological findings, we might also believe. However, if we study history and archeology we will see that it is not the case. We believe that the Bible is accurate because it is proven by archeology.)

B. Prophecies

Read Isaiah 46:9-10

(Prophecies are important as we can see in this passage. God is saying that He is going to tell us what's going to happen before it happens so that we will know and to prove to us that He is God. If we compare all the religious literature in the world of the four major religions: Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity. No manuscripts of the other religions that contain prophecies have ever come true. It is because no one could give prophecies that are accurate unless that person is God. The Bible says that if somebody gives a prophecy that 90% came true, that is not from Him because God will never make a mistake. In order to test the accuracy of a prophecy, it must be 100% accurate.)

1. Medo-Persia & Greece

Read Daniel 8:20-22

(The Bible spoke about nations and kingdoms. An example would be the Medo-Persia and the Greece Empire. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel all prophesied that the Medes and the Persians would overtake the Babylonian Empire. – Isaiah 13:17-18, Jeremiah 51:28, Jeremiah 51:11. Daniel interpreted a dream which also foretold the fall of Babylon. The book of Daniel is clearly written before 300 BC. The Old Testament was translated into the Greek language around 300 BC. The Medo-Persians invaded Babylon in 500 BC.)

2. Alexander the Great

Read Daniel 11:3-4

(If you just read these passages, it doesn't hit you because prophecies are usually clearer after it happens. In Daniel 11:3-4, Daniel prophesies about a king and what would eventually happen to his kingdom. Daniel said of this king that:

1. *His kingdom will be broken up and divided into four major sections.*
2. *His kingdom will not go into his own descendants. (Traditionally when a king dies, the sons or his descendants takes over)*
3. *Nor according to his own authority. Meaning he has nothing to do with how his kingdom will be passed on because it is not of his authority.*
4. *His sovereignty will be uprooted. Meaning it's not his desire. It will be taken away from him.*



SELEUCUS
Syria



PTOLEMY
Egypt



CASSANDER
Greece



LYSIMACHUS
Asia Minor

(This prophecy eventually did happen. The king referred to in the Daniel prophecy was Alexander the Great. After Alexander the great died, his kingdom was divided into his four generals: General Seleucus, General Ptolemy, General Cassander and General Lysimachus. And his kingdom was divided into four parts: Syria, Egypt, Greece, and Asia Minor. You see when God says something, it's going to happen. There is no other book that comes close to the prophecies of the Bible.)

3. Desolation of Egypt

Read Ezekiel 29:9,15

(One particular nation that still exists today is Egypt. God made a prophecy about Egypt in Ezekiel. God says that He is going to judge Egypt. Now this is amazing, Egypt was a world power. When Abraham went to Egypt the Pyramids were already built. That was how advance Egypt was. But God says something about Egypt that it will be the lowest of the kingdoms. It will never again lift itself up above the nations and God shall make them so small that they will not rule over other nations again – verse 15.)

(If you go to Egypt, you will be sad. Once upon a time it is super powerful. Egypt was well advanced. Chariots were invented by the Egyptians along with the paper, medicine, and pyramids. Egypt was advanced before. China was also advanced, but the difference is that, China is now becoming a world power again but Egypt will never be a world power again. How can an advance civilization suddenly slowly went down and never to rise again? But you know what, there is still good news for the Egyptians. There is also a prophecy about Egypt that they will come to God.)

C. Israel

Read Ezekiel 36:10-11

Read Isaiah 66:8

(We believe in the Bible because its prophecy about Israel came to pass. In Ezekiel 36, God talks about how He will restore Israel. He will convert the waste places and it will be rebuilt. We have to understand that Israel lost its territory. It lost its identity as a nation for 2000 years. Can you show me any other nation that has no longer any territory, no flag, no constitutions, nothing for two thousand years and then suddenly it became a nation again? We don't see any parallel except Israel alone. Some Filipinos when they go to the States, after one generation, they will forget their language. You

will meet Filipinos there that no longer speak Tagalog. One single generation, and they forget their language. But Israel today, even after two thousand years had passed, had the same language. If you can read the Hebrew language, it is the same language of the Bible. And the Bible tells us that they will become very fruitful. If you read all the prophecies from the book of Ezekiel and Isaiah, you will be amazed because Israel is now the fruit capital of Asia. Do you realize that we import our bananas from Israel? The bananas we have and the seedlings, they come from Israel. How can God bless a nation so small? Israel is so tiny that you can cross the whole country in less than a day. And yet look at Israel today militarily and scientifically speaking. The surrounding nations will try to destroy them but God says it will not be destroyed. In fact God made a promise, those who will bless Israel will be blessed, those who curse Israel will be cursed. And that's why we praise God because Israel became a nation in one day. The Bible says, "Who has heard such a thing, who has seen such a thing can a land be born in one day?" (Isaiah 66:8). Israel was born in May 14, 1948—through the Philippine vote.)

D. Prophecies about Jesus Christ

	Old Testament	New Testament
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:4	Matthew 1:22–23
Descendant of David	2 Samuel 7:11–16	Matthew 1:1
Betrayed for 30 pcs. of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
Crucified, pierced	Psalms 22:16	Matthew 27:35
Divided his garments	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35
Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57–60
Resurrected	Psalms 16:10	Matthew 28

(As we close, we should believe in Jesus and Jesus was prophesied in the Old Testament. There are so many prophecies about Jesus and they were all fulfilled.)

(There was a Mathematician by the name of Peter Stone, a Christian, who was the Chairman of the Mathematics Department at Pasadena City College, Chairman of the Science Division in Westmont College, and many more, who made a statistical analysis of all the prophecies about Jesus coming true. Using the Law of Probability, Stoner computed the probability of all this prophecies happening in one person – Jesus Christ. To better appreciate this statistical analysis, we can compare it to playing a dice. The probability of that the number 6 will appear when you roll a dice is 1 out of 6. But the probability of you getting the same number when you roll the dice for a second time is 1 out of 36, and so on and so forth. It gets harder every time. In Jesus' case, Stoner said in his study that the probability is like filling the whole state of Texas (similar to the whole island of Luzon) with coin up to 2 feet high, marking one of the coins, and then dropping someone anywhere that he wants to be dropped, blindfolded, and for him to pick out the marked coin in the first try. It is impossible! All of these prophecies cannot happen unless God is involved.)

E. Jesus' Death and Resurrection.

(We need to know why we believe, and we believe because of Jesus. One of the last prophecies about Jesus is His resurrection. The resurrection is very important as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.)

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–8

(The word 'protos' which was translated as 'first importance' means that it is of highest importance. What is the highest thing that Paul delivers to the Corinthians? It is that Christ died for our sins, not only that He died but He was buried to prove that He died and that He was raised on the third day. And in the following verses, it says that He appeared to His disciples, to so many people, to the twelve, to more than 500, at one time He appeared to James, to all the apostles and last of all He also appeared to Paul. The resurrection of Christ is crucial. Take note that when Paul talked

about Jesus appearing to more than 500, he was talking about an incident that happened at the time of Paul's writing, and that they were still alive. What Paul is saying is that the Corinthians can still interview these witnesses because at the time Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians, the people to whom Jesus appeared were still alive. They can verify if what Paul said about Jesus' resurrection is true by talking to these witnesses. The Bible was written in the lifetime of those eyewitnesses.)

(Skeptics refuse to believe the resurrection because they are close-minded. They refuse to look at the evidence. The evidence about Christ's resurrection is something you need to study. The most famous lawyer in the world who is admired by most is Sir Lionel Luckhoo. He is the most successful lawyer according to the Guinness Book of World Records. He holds 245 consecutive murder acquittals and he never lost a case. One day somebody asked him, 'Why don't you prove that the resurrection did not happen and so we can forget Christianity.' He said, 'I never thought about it'. He was not a Christian. He studied the evidence. And this was his conclusion:)

"I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."

SIR LIONEL LUCKHOO

(Sir Lionel Luckhoo became a follower of Jesus. He was knighted twice by the queen of England. We believe because we know for a fact, through studying the evidences, that Jesus died and He rose again. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, we can forget Christianity and everything's a joke. But He really died and rose again, and it is the most important thing.)

(Attorney Simon Greenleaf is an American lawyer and jurist who authored the classic 'A Treatise On The Law Of Evidence'. In 1833, Greenleaf was named to the Royall professorship, and in 1846

succeeded Judge Joseph Story as Dane professor of law at Harvard University. Greenleaf contributed extensively to the development of Harvard Law School, a well-educated and he was not a Christian. One day his student asked him; ‘ Sir, why don’t you prove that Jesus Christ did not rise again from the dead.’ So Greenleaf took the challenge. And this is his conclusion:

“The resurrection is one of the best documented events
in the history of man.”

SIMON GREENLEAF

(Jesus existed. He is a historical man and there are evidences of His existence. His birth and death even marks our present calendars – B.C. and A.D. The only question today in people’s minds is whether He died and rose again from the dead. We want to let you know that you can put your faith in Jesus. His resurrection can be defended, as affirmed by the experts and ultimately the Bible. Belief in Jesus has changed the lives of countless people and it will change your life. As the Apostle Paul writes, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. If we have hope in Christ in this life only we have all men most to be pitied.” 1 Corinthians 15, 17, 19-20. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead)

(Do you now understand why you believe or don’t believe? Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus died for all your sins and He rose again from the dead? As we close, just in case you are not so sure about your faith. If you have never really given your life to Jesus and the evidence for that is that you don’t have peace and joy. If you have religion but you don’t have Jesus, I want you then to have Jesus today. Until you radically encounter Jesus, your life will not be changed because Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship. We don’t behave like Christ and the reason for that is that we have never encountered Christ. So this is your chance again to encounter Christ in your life.)