

## **THE FAMILY**

*Our most important human relationships are within our own family. God has assigned specific responsibilities to men and women in their roles as husbands, wives, fathers, and mothers. Fulfilling God's instructions concerning your specific role within the family allows you to bring God glory by becoming an observable illustration of what it is to be a part of God's spiritual family. You are encouraged to focus only the topics within this lesson that immediately apply to you.*

### **The key word of this lesson is:**

*ILLUSTRATION*

### **The key question this lesson answers:**

*What are your specific biblical responsibilities within the family structure?*

### **The key purpose of this lesson:**

*To teach you how to function biblically within your family relationships.*

### **The key point of this lesson:**

*God uses your role in the family as an illustration of what it means to be a member of God's family.*

#### **Memory Verses:**

*"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." – 1 Peter 3:7*

*"Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." – Ephesians 5:22-24*

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY

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## A. The first institution God established on earth was the family.

God made his definition of marriage extremely clear from the very beginning. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman for one lifetime.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18, 21-24*

## B. God makes it clear that the home is important to the ministry.

Before a man can lead within the church, he must first demonstrate that he is able to lead within his home.

*1 Timothy 3:4-5*

## C. God uses your family to illustrate what it means to be in his family.

1. **FAMILY** – The body of Christ is called the "family" of God.

*Ephesians 3:14-15*

2. **HUSBAND** – You have been espoused to Christ as your "one husband."

*2 Corinthians 11:2*

3. **WIFE** – The body of Christ is called "the Lamb's wife."

*Revelation 19:7*

4. **FATHER** – God desires that you approach him as a "Father."

*Luke 11:1-2*

5. **MOTHER** – You are to spiritually minister to others like a nursing mother physically ministers to her children.

*1 Thessalonians 2:7-8*

6. **CHILDREN** – God desires to relate to you as his "sons and daughters."

*2 Corinthians 6:17-18*

### THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

God uses your role within the family as an illustration of what it means to be a spiritual member of his family. However, many believers have broken families and find it difficult to understand what it means to be in God's family. As you grow in your understanding of God's family, your biblical role within your own family should develop into a powerful witness of Jesus Christ.

# **THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HUSBAND**

## **A. A husband is to LOVE his wife.**

### **1. A providing love**

He must take the lead in assessing his wife's needs, and then he must choose to sacrificially meet those needs.

*Ephesians 5:23-25*

### **2. A purifying love**

He pours God's word into his wife to direct her attention away from the past and toward her eternal future with the Lord.

*Ephesians 5:26-27*

### **3. A practical love**

He loves his wife like he loves his own body, because it pictures how Christ loves his own body, the church.

*Ephesians 5:28-30*

### **4. A permanent love**

God designed the bond of marriage so that the two become one. It is a bond that cannot be broken.

*Ephesians 5:31-33*

## **B. A husband is to PROVIDE for his wife.**

God has given the husband the responsibility of providing for his family. This allows his wife to focus on guarding and guiding the home without distraction.

*"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." – 1 Timothy 5:8*

*"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house..." – 1 Timothy 5:14*

## **C. A husband is to PROTECT his wife.**

It is the husband's responsibility to protect his home from both physical and spiritual forces that seek to spoil his family. It is important for the husband to be strong in the Lord, and be the spiritual leader to those who have been called to submit to his authority.

*"...how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house." – Matthew 12:29*

#### **D. A husband is to TEACH his wife.**

When a wife has biblical and spiritual questions she must seek answers by spending time with God in his word. If she still has questions, God intends for a wife to consult her husband. It is his responsibility to study the word of God and be ready to give her an answer.

*“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.” – 1 Corinthians 14:34-35*

#### **E. A husband is to DWELL with his wife.**

When a husband dwells with his wife, he provides her with the security she needs. You will learn how to provide security for your wife by learning how Jesus provides security for his bride, the church.

*“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them...” – 1 Peter 3:7*

##### **1. Jesus provides his bride with a never-ending love.**

Your wife needs to know in her heart that nothing can separate her from your love.

*Romans 8:35-39*

##### **2. Jesus provides his bride with an ever-continuing faithfulness.**

Your wife needs to know in her heart that no one could ever cause you to be unfaithful to her.

*2 Thessalonians 3:3*

##### **3. Jesus provides his bride with an always listening ear.**

Your wife needs to know in her heart that you care enough to listen to her.

*1 John 5:14*

##### **4. Jesus provides his bride with his best intentions.**

Your wife needs to know in her heart that she can trust that you will always have her best intentions at heart.

*Romans 8:28*

##### **5. Jesus provides his bride with the assurance of non-threatening reactions.**

Your wife needs to know in her heart that she does not have to fear your wrath or verbal condemnation.

*Romans 8:1*

##### **6. Jesus provides his bride with the assurance that he will not forsake her.**

Your wife needs to know in her heart that she will not have to face the trials of life without you.

*Hebrews 13:5*

**7. Jesus provides his bride with his compassion and help.**

Your wife needs to know in her heart that you will seek to feel what she feels.

*Hebrews 4:15-16*

**F. A husband is to KNOW his wife.**

All wives have the same basic needs: however, all women are different. It is the husband's responsibility to study his wife in order to know what causes her to feel loved.

*"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge..." – 1 Peter 3:7*

**1. Your wife needs your love.**

She wants a husband who is willing to die for her.

**2. Your wife needs your security.**

She wants a husband who is willing to provide for her needs.

**3. Your wife needs your intimacy.**

She wants a husband who is willing to listen to her.

**G. A husband is to HONOR his wife.**

You are to place a high value on your wife because she is precious to you, and because of the partnership you share.

*"...giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life;" – 1 Peter 3:7*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

If a husband fails to fulfill his biblical responsibilities toward his wife, it will hinder his prayers!

*"...that your prayers be not hindered." – 1 Peter 3:7*

**DISCUSSION:**

Does your wife know that you are committed to protect her physically and spiritually?

What are you doing to ensure that your wife feels loved?

Does your wife come to you with spiritual and biblical questions?

How is your relationship with God affecting your relationship with your wife?

# THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A WIFE

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## A. A wife is to be her husband's COMPANION.

God gave man a companion to complete him, because it is not good for him to be alone.

*“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” – Genesis 2:18*

1. Your husband needs your friendship to share joys and trials with. You will energize your husband by being his best friend.

*Song of Solomon 5:16*

2. Your husband needs your companionship to share intimacy with. You will fulfill your husband by being his lover.

*Genesis 2:24-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5*

## B. A wife is to HELP her husband.

God plans for a wife to provide what her husband needs to fulfill God's purpose for his life. You are able to become everything that God intends you to be by helping your husband become everything God intends for him to be.

*“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help for him.” – Genesis 2:18*

## C. A wife is to REVERENCE her husband.

God makes it clear that wives need be loved unconditionally, and husbands need to be respected unconditionally. While it may be difficult to show respect when you do not feel loved, it is important to understand that this is not a commandment to feel respectful emotions, but it is rather a commandment to demonstrate respectful behavior.

*“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” – Ephesians 5:33*

### FOLLOW SARAH'S EXAMPLE:

A wife's responsibility to submit to her husband is not dependent upon whether he is fulfilling his biblical responsibilities to her. You must still choose to submit to him even if he is not serving the Lord. A disobedient husband needs to see, and not hear, your uncompromising reverence for God, and your unconditional respect for him. Focus your attention on pleasing God with your heart.

*1 Peter 3:1-6*

## WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF SUBMISSION?

Submission simply means to place yourself under authority. God has given the husband the responsibility to be the loving leader for his wife, and his wife has been given the responsibility to place herself under his leadership. Wives are completely equal with their husbands; however, God has given them each different responsibilities within the marriage. When a wife places herself under her husband's leadership, it does not mean that she has a lesser role in the marriage. It simply means that she has a different role.

*"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God... For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man." – 1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9*

### 1. A wife is to SUBMIT to her husband as she does to Christ.

God explicitly says that a wife is to submit to her husband in the same way that she submits to Christ. You must first place yourself under the authority of Christ before placing yourself under your husband's authority. It is impossible for a wife to be submissive to the Lord Jesus Christ without being submissive to her husband.

*"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."  
– Ephesians 5:22*

### 2. A wife is to SUBMIT to her husband as the church does to Christ.

The church's submission to Christ is never something we feel forced or obligated to do. Rather, it is our honor and privilege to submit to Him. Just as the church chooses to submit to God's authority in everything, so must the wives choose to submit everything to her husband's authority.

*"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." – Ephesians 5:24*

### 3. A wife is to SUBMIT to her husband as it is fit in the Lord.

The only way for two to become one is for them to fit together as God intended. A wife fulfilling her Biblical responsibility to submit to her husband is the only way to achieve the oneness that God planned for marriage to have.

*"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord."  
– Colossians 3:18*

## DISCUSSION:

How are you helping your husband fulfill God's purpose for his life?

Who are some godly women you are looking to as examples to follow in your relationships?

Are you in submission to your husband's leadership?

# **THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PARENT**

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The bible is clear that the responsibility of training children has been given to fathers. However, there are many homes today that are lacking the role of a father. These principles are also true for mothers and guardians who are filling the void of an absent father.

## **A. Parents are to PROTECT their children.**

It is important for parents to be strong in the Lord, and be the spiritual leaders for their children.

*“...how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.” – Matthew 12:29*

## **B. Parents are to TEACH their children.**

God intends for parents to teach their children the word of God so that they may know the way of salvation. He also intends for parents to teach their children the word of God so that they might live an abundant life of victory with Christ.

*“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” – Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

## **C. Parents are to LEAD their children.**

Parents will become examples of how to live out the truths of God’s word when they lay up the word of God in their own hearts. Parents should not only teach the word of God with their lips, they should also lead their children by modeling the word of God with their lives.

*“Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children...” – Deuteronomy 11:18-19*

## **D. Parents are to EXHORT their children.**

Parents exhort their children by spending time with them. Children need to know that their parents want to be there for them, and with them. It is important that parents always be present.

*“As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,” – 1 Thessalonians 2:11*

## **E. Parents are to COMFORT their children.**

Children are comforted when their parents come close beside them and speak words of encouragement and consolation. It is important that parents speak encouraging words to their children.

*“As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,” – 1 Thessalonians 2:11*



## **F. Parents are to be careful NOT TO PROVOKE their children.**

Children are born into this world with the desire to glorify their fathers. When a father carries out his Biblical responsibilities, he can have a powerful impact in the lives of his children. However, if he neglects his responsibilities, he also possesses the power to destroy his children's spirit that may last for their entire lives.

1. Fathers have the power to provoke their children to become REBELLIOUS.

*“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” – Ephesians 6:4*

2. Fathers have the power to provoke their children to become DISCOURAGED

*“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”  
– Colossians 3:21*

## **G. Parents are to DISCIPLINE their children.**

God has given parents the responsibility to discipline their children. Unfortunately, there are many parents who do not take this responsibility seriously.

*“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.” – Hebrews 12:9-10*

1. **An undisciplined child will grow up to be:**

- a. A SORROW to his father

*“He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.” – Proverbs 17:21*

- b. A HEAVINESS of his mother

*“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.” – Proverbs 10:1*

- c. Causes GRIEF and BITTERNESS to his father and mother

*“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to he that bare him.”  
– Proverbs 17:25*

- d. ANGRY against the Lord

*“The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.” – Proverbs 19:3*

- e. A SHAME and REPROACH to his father and mother

*“He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.” – Proverbs 19:26*

- f. One who ROBS his father and mother

*“Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is a companion of a destroyer.” – Proverbs 28:24*

## 2. Seven practical and biblical suggestions concerning discipline:

- a. Never allow your children to tell you “no.” Remember, children will learn to respond to God’s authority by learning to respond to your authority.
- b. Always make a distinction between what is childish irresponsibility, and what is defiance.
- c. Never wait to discipline your children until you have reached a point where you will respond in anger.
- d. Always discipline at the moment of the disobedience.
- e. Always discipline attitude as much as action.
- f. Always acknowledge when your children are doing what is right.
- g. Always be able to say to your children, *“I was wrong, will you please forgive me?”*

### **DISCUSSION:**

How would you describe your relationship with your children?

Do your actions support the truths of God’s word that you are teaching your children?

How do you discipline your children?

Which one of these biblical responsibilities are you trusting God to grow you in?

# REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. According to *1 Timothy 3:4-5*, why is the home important to the ministry?

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2. What are the seven Biblical responsibilities of a husband?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Explain in your own words what biblical submission means?

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4. List four biblical responsibilities of a parent.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

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# PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Read *Genesis 20:1-13*. How many of the biblical responsibilities of a husband can you identify that Abraham broke in this passage concerning his wife Sarah?

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Read *Genesis 34*. What did Jacob do after he found out that a man named Shechem defiled his daughter Dinah? Did Jacob fulfill his biblical responsibilities as a parent toward his children? What do you think Jacob should have done differently?

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Read *Job 1-2*. This passage talks about God's servant Job being physically attacked by Satan. In the midst of his pain and sorrow, what kind of support was Job's wife to him?

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Read *Acts 18:1-4; 18:18-28; and Romans 16:3-5*. The apostle Paul worked side by side with Aquilla and Priscilla throughout his ministry in different cities and continents. How important was Aquilla and Priscilla's home to the ministry? How are you using your home for the ministry?

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