

Family Dynamics

Session 5

Let's Pray

Lord, Your scriptures reveal Your perfect design for the family unit. Help us to open ourselves to the teachings from today's verses so that we can begin to align our families with Your divine plan. Give us the needed courage and wisdom to do so.

As we go through these scriptures choose one that really “speaks” to you and write it on a slip paper.

At the end of this session you can put this “scripture slip” in your wallet or purse and use it to help you remember what this “step” is in learning to walk with Christ.

Genesis 18:19

Just as God expected Abraham to direct his children to live as God expected God expects the same of parents today. Think what promises God has made to us and will honor if we teach our children to live as God expects.

Exodus 20:12

God also directs children to honor their parents. This is one of the ten commandments. If you read these commandments in order you will notice this is the first one about how humans should relate to humans. It is also the only one that has a promise attached.

Joshua 24:15

We also have to choose which gods we will serve. Will it be the god of money, or job, or possessions, personal pleasure, addiction, or one of the many other ones that Satan uses society to throw at us?

It is up to the household leader to choose the gods for the family.

Proverbs 13:24; 22:6,15; 23:13-14

Verse 24 tells us that children **MUST** be disciplined and that discipline is a part of loving children.

Verse 6 promises good results of proper direction.

Verse 15 tells us again that discipline is necessary.

Verses 13 and 14 tell us that corrective discipline may prevent a child from bad consequences later.

Matthew 19:5-6

This tells us that marriage is supposed to be permanent.

Pay attention to the fact that the marriage here is between two people whom GOD has joined together. If your salvation came after your marriage you will certainly need to involve God in correcting any problems you may be experiencing in your marriage.

Luke 15:11-18

This is known as the story of the prodigal (wayward) son. Jesus tells it to let us know how forgiving God is.

Acts 16:14-15

Lydia was so influential in her own home that when she believed and was baptized her whole household also believed and received salvation. This really speaks highly of her influence on her family. We need to strive to be that influential in our own families.

1 Corinthians 7: 3; 11:3

Chapter 7 tells us where we are to get our sexual needs met. There is NO provision for satisfaction of these needs OUTSIDE MARRIAGE. Any other means is SIN for which we must ask God's forgiveness and seek God's help in refraining from this sin.

Chapter 11 gives us the order of SPIRITUAL authority. To be under God's ideal family plan it needs to be this way. If your family is not correctly aligned seek God's guidance in getting it into proper order.

Ephesians 6:1-4

This is a directive not a suggestion.

2 Timothy 1:5

Timothy's mother and grandmother are both recognized a strong influences on Timothy's faith. Grandparents should take advantage of such opportunities along with parents.

Hebrews 12:6

God sets the example for how to teach children.

1 Peter 3:1-8

Again this is a directive not a suggestion. Don't give up on God.

These two verses, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament summarize this lesson.

Psalm 145:4 and Ephesians 5:31-33

Psalm and Ephesians both remind us how we are to treat our family members.

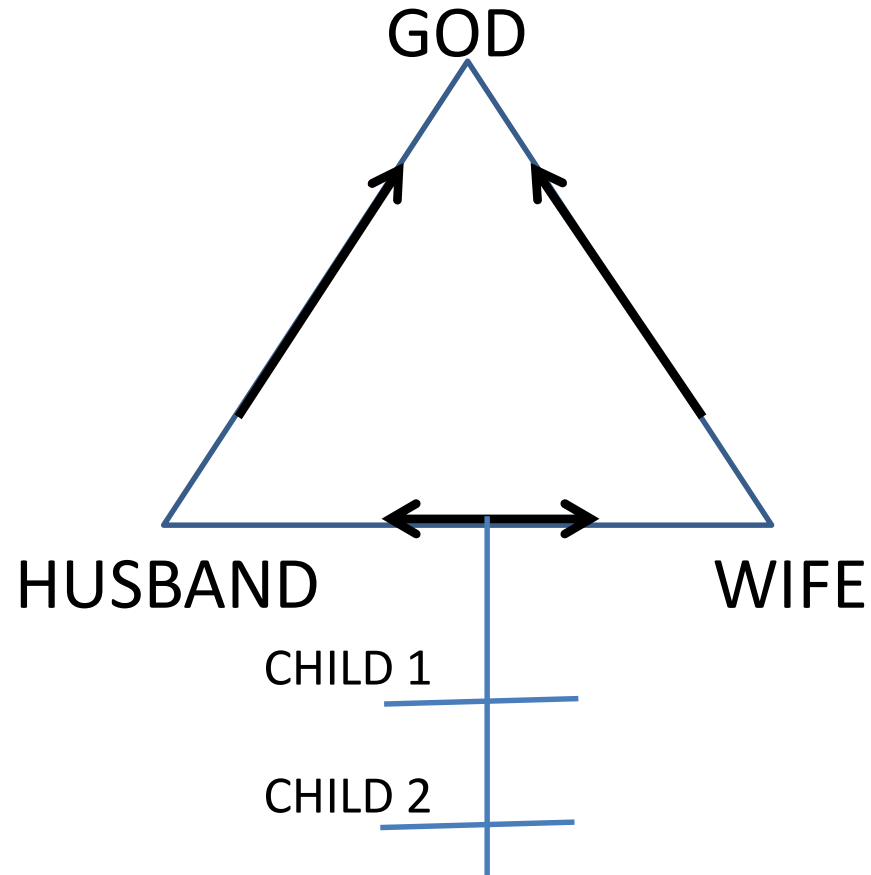
One thing we have to know and believe is that God expects our families to be structured according to His guidelines.

The HUSBAND is to live with his wife by being understanding, by honoring her, and by praying with her and for her.

God holds the husband accountable for the spiritual condition of the family.

The WIFE is to submit to her husband's leadership as long as he is in alignment with the Scriptures and with God. Her opinions count and she can disagree with him in private but he is the final word.

Think of your family as you look at this diagram.



Notice as the husband and wife each move closer to God they move closer together and their children are also drawn closer to God.

Children are to be encouraged, nurtured, and disciplined. They are given to YOU to raise—not to the church, community, school system, or their grandparents OR THEIR PEER GROUP. Call the parents of your children's friends and associates. This just may be an opportunity to witness. Give your children a share of the work of the household. Our household motto was always: you live here, your sleep here, you eat here, then you work here.

Although we don't always see stellar, immediate results from the discipline we impose on our children, the Bible assures us that it must happen even though our children may be older before we can see any positive results.

As Mark Twain said, "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years."

Everything that we have examined in this session is summarized in the assurance that follows.

Assurance 5:

***I WILL GET MY FAMILY UNDER GOD'S
ORDAINED ORDER.***

This concludes session 5

Let's pray.

Help us, Lord, to realize that the way You have structured the family is the ideal way. Help us to give up our own self-importance as we learn to come under Your guidance in our earthly relationships.