

God has made woman so that she is a wonderful complement to man.

Write out *Gen 2:18* _____

Faith, spiritual insight, and a sympathetic, loving nature were created in her that she might be her family's source of encouragement in every department of life, whether "natural" or "spiritual". **She is the heart of the home and family** while the husband is the leader of the team.

THE "FAMILY ALTAR"

It is important there be a regular time each day during which the family, (i.e. if all are Christians), read the Word of God and pray together. Most families find that it is best to do this at meal times when the family is together. This should not be too long so that young children do not lose interest; nor should it be so theological that only the "oldies" benefit from it. Just a short meaningful time spent together over the Word and in prayer will reinforce the fact that the family is a "Christian" family. Some families enjoy singing scripture songs of praise too.

Study 13 will continue this theme of the family, in particular the parent-child relationship.

No 12

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Twelve: The Family

In the next two studies, we will look at the clearly defined Biblical roles of family members. This is God's intended lifestyle for men, women and children.

AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN SCRIPTURE

The Bible says much concerning the family and how to have a happy family life. Read the following Scriptures to gain an overall picture of how the Apostles saw the family. *Eph 5:18-33; Col 3:18-21; Tit 2:1-8; 1Pet 3:1-12.*

GOD INTENDED THE FAMILY TO BE A SPIRITUAL UNIT

1. **God instituted marriage.** Write in your own words what Jesus said in *Mat 19:5,6* _____

Read *Gen 2:18-25* for an account of God's instruction to the first family.

2. **God warns against the "unequal yoke"** This means that because marriage is a spiritual matter, Christians are told not to marry unbelievers. *2Cor 6:14, Deut 7:3,4, 1Cor 7:39.*
3. **The marriage covenant is for a lifetime.** In contrast to the many voices today, God reveals that marriage is for a lifetime, *Rom 7:2,3.*

4. **Children are the blessing of the Lord.** *Ps 127:3-5*. This fact again emphasises that the family is a spiritual unit.

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY

God has established headship in the family unit. This is God's idea not man's. Write out *1Cor 11:3* _____

Put the truth of *Eph 5:23* in your own words: _____

Why is *Eph 5:21* before order in the family? _____

HUSBANDS AND FATHERS

The husband/father of a family is entrusted with great responsibility by the Lord. As the head of the family, he must be careful to remain in a place of submission to the Lord, as he and his wife are also submitting to one another before the Lord.

Eph 5:21, 1Pet 5:5.

What does *Eph 5:25,28-33* tell us about the quality of the husband's love for his wife? _____

Notice that *v28-30* of that passage tell us that the husband is to nourish and cherish his wife, in the manner that Jesus nourishes and cherishes the Church. This applies spiritually as well as naturally.

What does *Col 3:19* have to say concerning husbands loving their wives? _____

What do you think *1Pet 3:7* means? _____

In *Num 30:13-15*, (read in a modern version), we see that the husband has a great deal of responsibility for his wife.

What warning does *Col 3:21* have for fathers? _____

WIVES AND MOTHERS

Sum up the teaching of the following scriptures on the attitudes of wives to their husbands: *Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:18; 1Pet 3:1,2.*

Read and meditate on *Pro 31*. This chapter presents some teachings that King Lemuel learned through his Mother's ministry. It is a beautiful evaluation of the role of the wife and mother.

What does *Tit 2:3-5* tell us concerning the wife/mother? _____

1Pet 3:1-6 is an important passage on this subject. It speaks particularly to Christian women with unsaved husbands. Outline the main points of Peter's teaching: _____
