

# **FAMILY ADVICE**

**STUDY AND DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**FOR**

**INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND GROUPS**

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## Lesson 1 – Men, Husbands and Fathers

1. **Titus 2:2.** Paul lists the qualities that an older man should have, and therefore the qualities that a younger man should be cultivating. List these qualities.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Ephesians 5:25-30.** A husband should \_\_\_\_\_ his wife.
3. Who is the model for love? \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Colossians 3:19.** A husband should \_\_\_\_\_ his wife, and not be \_\_\_\_\_ against her. Being embittered includes:
  - a. holding a grudge
  - b. being resentful
  - c. being jealous of her strengths and accomplishments
  - d. thinking that you're not getting enough attention from her
5. **Colossians 3:21.** A father needs to be careful not to \_\_\_\_\_ his children.
6. **Ephesians 6:4.** A father needs to be careful not to \_\_\_\_\_ (provoke them to anger, set impossible goals, never be satisfied, etc.) his children. Instead, he should teach his children \_\_\_\_\_.
7. **1 Peter 3:7.** A husband should be \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife and treat her with \_\_\_\_\_. Otherwise, his prayers will be \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What are some practical ways to be considerate of your wife?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
9. **1 Corinthians 13.** Read this chapter at home and meditate on it.

## Lesson 2 – Women, Wives and Mothers

1. **Genesis 2:18.** God created Eve to be a \_\_\_\_\_ for Adam.
2. A wife should be a \_\_\_\_\_ for her husband.
3. **1 Peter 3:3-4.** What two qualities in a woman are precious to God?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Titus 2:3-5.** By describing the characteristics of an older woman and what younger women need to be taught, Paul provides a summary of womanhood. How are older women to be?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are older women to teach the younger women?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Ephesians 5:22-24.** A woman should \_\_\_\_\_ to her husband  
\_\_\_\_ in some things  
\_\_\_\_ when she agrees with him  
\_\_\_\_ in all things
7. **1 Peter 3:1-2.** If the husband is not a Christian, or is a Christian but is not following God, his wife should:
  - \_\_\_\_ nag him, because he should know better
  - \_\_\_\_ make a show of how religious she is
  - \_\_\_\_ be submissive
  - \_\_\_\_ be pure and respectful
8. **Proverbs 31:10-31.** Read this passage at home and meditate on it.

## Lesson 3 – Some Practical Advice for Parents

- Love and honor your spouse.
  - Spend time together
  - Do not insult or disrespect your spouse in front of others, especially your children
  - Model love, repentance and forgiveness
  - Practice being a biblical husband or wife, even when it's hard
- Strive for consistency. None of us will ever be 100% consistent, but it is still a goal to strive for.
- Look for opportunities to say “yes” instead of “no”. Sometimes we get in the habit of saying “no” to our children’s requests, simply because it’s easiest for us to say “no”. That is, sometimes we say “no” because of our own selfishness, not because there is a good reason to say “no”.
  - “Can I play outside?”
  - “Can I wear my favorite blue shirt today?”
- Be trustworthy.
  - *“Parents and children need to be able to trust each other’s actions and words. It discourages and embitters a child if he or she cannot count on a parent following through on what that parent says. In such a situation, the child learns that the parent’s words are meaningless and his actions unreliable. It is no wonder that a child in such a family builds an emotional wall around himself to protect himself from hurt and comes to ignore what the parent says.”*
    - Ray Notgrass, *The Model Family*
  - Be careful not to make promises that you will not, or may not, keep. You understand that sometimes situations change and your plans have to change, but your younger children don’t understand this distinction.
  - Admit your mistakes. Apologize and seek forgiveness when necessary. This is especially important as your children grow older.
- Avoid the two extremes:
  - permissive parenting
  - authoritarian parenting
- Teach and expect first-time obedience. Obedience is:
  - cheerful
  - immediate
  - complete

Anything less is not obedience.

## Family Advice

- Symptoms that your children are not obedient:
  - You are a threatening - repeating parent
    - “Clean your room.”
    - “Didn’t I tell you to clean your room?”
    - “I’m not going to tell you again to clean your room.”
    - “If you don’t clean your room now, you’re going to be in big trouble.”
    - “Fine, I’ll clean it myself then.”
  - You bribe to get behavior that you want
    - “If you’ll clean your room, we can have some ice cream.”
- How to start teaching first-time obedience.
  - With toddlers, teach what “no” means. Be consistent; that is, if an object is off-limits today, it must be off-limits tomorrow, too.
  - With younger children (grade school and younger), start by teaching them to say “Yes, Mom” or “Yes, Dad” when you call their name.
    - “Matthew.”
    - “Yes, Dad. I’m coming...”
  - With older children, explain that you’ve been lax at teaching them an important character trait, and that you’re going to expect them to obey immediately. If obedience is not promptly given, consequences result immediately.
  - In all cases, look for opportunities to let the children succeed at obeying. For example, after explaining that you want the children to answer with “Yes, Mom” or “Yes, Dad”, send them to their room and immediately call them. Make a game out of it.
  - Be sure to model first-time obedience yourself. Let the husband call his wife, and let the children see her respond, “Yes, Dear”. (It’s OK for the wife to call her husband and have him respond politely too!)
  - Practice often. *You* must be consistent. If you ever give in, then the child rightfully wonders every time he wants to disobey if this will be the time he gets away with it.
- Be vigilant about potential negative influences:
  - Media (television, movies, books, music, video games, other entertainment)
  - Friends
  - Bad language
  - What your children are taught in school or church
- As we’ve discussed before, look for the heart issues, not the symptoms that your child exhibits.