

ONE LARGE GROUP

PRAYER:

PURPOSE: Provide an overview of what the Bible says about: God, man, marriage, and parenting

ASSUMPTIONS:

- God exists & He is sovereign (He is alive & active)
- God’s word is truth (God revealed the Bible for our benefit & guidance)
- The Bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. This allows us to help our families, neighbors, and country

THEME: “Two Paths”

- Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey (honor God or self?)
- There are consequences to each path

LESSON 7 REVIEW:

- Marriage is the only place for sex
- Sex is for pleasing and protecting your mate
- A husband is accountable to God
- A husband is a: leader, lover, learner, provider, and joyful mate

OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 8:

- Clarify the relationship between parents and children
- Identify the characteristics of a godly family environment
- Explore a warning to fathers
- Look at biblical examples of good and poor fathers

BIBLE:

- The Bible was the foundation of the reformation
- One church for 1517 years
- The church slowly drifted from biblical teaching
- Luther posted 95 discussion points on 10-31-1517 (reformation day)
- Salvation was by faith alone, in Christ alone, on the authority of the Bible alone, and all to the glory of God
- Bach wrote SDG after all his works (Latin for “all to the glory of God”)

PARENTING:

Q - What is the primary human relationship?

Genesis 2:24 (3) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and *they shall become one flesh.*

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Matthew 19:5-6 (952) And said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore *what God has joined together, let not man separate.*

Deuteronomy 24:5 (220) When a man has taken a new wife, *he shall not go out to war* or be charged with any business; *he shall* be free at home one year, and *bring happiness to his wife* whom he has taken.

ANSWER: The relationship between husband and wife

- The husband/wife relationship takes priority over all other relationships
- A new marriage takes precedence over national defense
- The husband/wife relationship is designed to be permanent
- Children are temporarily in their parents family
- When children grow up and marry they start their own families
- The family is the basic building block of every other social institution
- Marriage was the first human institution created by God
- Family is built around the parents
- The 2 in 1 unity in marriage is an image of God’s 3 in 1 nature
- Our culture has the family priority reversed
- Children are given priority over the parents in most families today
- Often, the activities and schedule revolve around the children, not the parents
 - Parents become worn out
 - Kids become self-centered and slow to mature

Q - What is the place of children in a family?

Gen 29:31 (31) When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

Gen 30:22 (32) Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

Ps 127:3-4 (636) Behold, *children are a heritage from the Lord*, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth.

Mal 2:15 (926) But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? *He seeks godly offspring.* Therefore take heed to your spirit, and *let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.*

ANSWERS:

- Children are a blessing from God
- Children are to be raised to worship and honor God (parents are stewards)

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Notes:

- It is God who gives children
- Parents are responsible to raise children in a godly manner
- Parenting is both an honor and a responsibility (both given by God)
- Treating his wife well is the husband’s responsibility in raising godly children

SMALL GROUPS (each group reviews the following material)

Review Homework: (ask the following questions)

- What did you learn? Are you now thinking differently?
- Do you understand God better? Are you resolved to act differently?

Recite Prior Memory Verses: (Gen 1:1, Prov 4:23, Eph 1:3, Jn 17:17, 1 Cor 12:7, Gen 2:24, Eph 5:25)

PARENTING:

Q - What should be the attitude of a godly husband and father?

Ps 128:1-4 (636) *Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.* (note: this was an agricultural society)

Ps 36:1 (587) An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: *there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

ANSWER: The “Fear of the Lord”

- A man who fears the Lord will be blessed
- The wife of a husband who fears the Lord will be blessed (fruitful vine)
- The children of a husband who fears the Lord will be blessed (olive plants)
- Fear of the Lord = A reverent awe of God resulting in a desire to obey/trust/honor
- This attitude (fear of the Lord) is a gift of the Lord.

Q - What is a godly family environment?

Dt 5:16 (200) *Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*

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Prov 20:20 (659) Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.

Eph 4:32 (1148) And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

1 Pe 2:17 (1188) Honor all people, love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

ANSWER 1: A place to respect and honor each other

- Honoring parents brings God’s blessing (long and pleasant life)
- Honor is not contingent upon having good parents
- We show honor to officers and government officials regardless of their character
- Honoring bad parents shows grace & mercy and may help change their heart

Ps 103:13 (621) As a father pities his children, so *the Lord pities those who fear Him*.

Prov 14:26 (654) In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have *a place of refuge*.

1 Tim 5:4 (1164) But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

ANSWER 2: A place of safety and refuge

- A home should be a place of: safety, encouragement, honor, love, and care.
- Fear, anger, and unforgiveness have no place in the home
- All family members should look forward to being home
- A father can greatly influence the home environment

Dt 6:6-9 (201) And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall *teach them diligently to your children*, and shall *talk of them when you sit* in your house, when you *walk by the way*, when you *lie down*, and when you *rise up*. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Prov 6:20-23 (648) My son, keep your fathers command, and do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you; and when you awake, they will speak with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

1 Tim 3:4-5 (1163) One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?).

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1 Tim 3:12 (1163) Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

ANSWER 3: A classroom

- Fathers especially are responsible to teach children
- Moral training is essential, and is the way to life
- Parents are to train children to think & evaluate everything biblically
- Parents educate and train their children by both example and counsel
- Learning is enhanced if you practice what you teach
- Being a godly father is a requirement of being a church leader

Q - What are fathers warned not to do?

Eph 6:4 (1149) And you, *fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

Col 3:21 (1156) *Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

ANSWER: Provoke children

- This warning exists because fathers can easily provoke their children

Q - What is the result of provoking? Anger & Discouragement

Q - How can children be provoked?

Ro 12:19 (1111) Beloved, *do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,”* says the Lord.

Ja 1:19-20 (1183) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for *the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

ANSWER 1: Angry reactions

- A man’s anger is naturally ungodly
- Anger and revenge should be left to God
- Never respond to your children in anger

Prov 29:15 (667) The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but *a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

1 Ki 1:5-6 (363) Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king”; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. *And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, “Why have you done so?”* he was also very good looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.

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ANSWER 2: Too permissive a home

- Left to themselves children will always act shamefully (discipline your children)

Mt 7:1-5 (937) Judge not, that you be not judged. *For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.* And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me remove the speck from your eye; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Ro 2:1-3 (1100) Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. *And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?*

ANSWER 3: Double standards

- Parents must be careful to model what they teach
- Double standards send a confusing message & generate anger

Prov 11:29 (652) He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

ANSWER 4: Constant conflict in the home

Prov 18:2 (657) *A fool has not delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.*

Prov 18:13 (658) He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

Prov 18:17 (658) The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.

ANSWER 5: Refusal to listen

- Be sure you know all the facts before you discipline children
- Understand your child’s heart (what are his motives?, what does he want?)

Q - What is the alternative to provoking?

Eph 6:4 (1149) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, *but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

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2 Tim 3:16 (1168) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

ANSWER 6: Bringing children up in the teaching and admonition of the Lord

- Use scripture to teach children
- Teach biblical rules, not arbitrary cultural rules
- Let children know that the rules and counsel come from God, not you
- Let children see you following the same godly counsel

Q - Who are some examples of poor fathers?

Eli the Priest

1 Sam 2:29 (297) *Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?*

1 Sam 3:13 (298) For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and *he did not restrain them.*

Notes:

- Eli refused to discipline and restrain his sons from evil
- Eli feared his sons more than he feared God
- Eli loved his sons more than he loved God
- God judged both Eli and his sons

King David

1 Ki 1:5-6 (363) Then Adonijah the son of Haggith *exalted himself*, saying, I will be king; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. And *his father had not rebuked him* at any time by saying, *Why have you done so?* He was also very good looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.

Notes:

- Both Absalom and Adonijah organized revolts against King David, their father
- David did not discipline these boys
- Both boys died for lack of discipline

Q - Who are some examples of good fathers?

Jehoida the priest

2 Ki 11:1-3 (413) When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. So *he was hidden with her in the house of the Lord* for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

Malachi Men Lesson 8 “Parenting” Part 1 Facilitators Notes

2 Ki 12:1-2 (414) In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Zibiah of Beersheba. *Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoida the priest instructed him.*

Notes:

- Jehoida the priest acted as a step-father to Jehoash
- Jehoash benefited from Jehoida’s godly instruction
- Even with godly instruction, however, a child may not walk in a godly manner
- Godly instruction doesn’t guarantee a godly child
- Godly instruction is still better than poor instruction, or no instruction

Zacharias the priest

Lk 1:5-7 (991) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were *both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord Blameless*. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

Notes:

- God describes both the parents of John the Baptist as righteous
- John lived righteously and was the forerunner for Christ
- Although John was righteous he was killed for his faith by an evil king

Joseph

Lk 2:21-24 (994) And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Lk 2:39-42, 51-52 (995) So *when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord*, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ... Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Malachi Men Lesson 8 “Parenting” Part 1 Facilitators Notes

Notes:

- Joseph and Mary were careful to observe all that God required
- Along with Jehoida and Zacharias they taught by precept and example
- They modeled what they taught

SUMMARY:

- The relationship between husband and wife is primary in a family
- Children are raised to leave the home (they are temporarily in the family)
- A godly father must “fear the Lord”
- Families are a place of: respect, honor, safety, and godly teaching
- Fathers are warned not to provoke their children

HOMEWORK:

- **Memorize:** Proverbs 14:26
- Make a list of everything you appreciate about each of your children
 - Continue to add to this list
 - Communicate your appreciation regularly, specifically, and enthusiastically
- Is there any person in your family with whom you have difficulty communicating?
 - What can you do to remove barriers?
 - What can you do to improve communication?
- Are there things you have done to provoke your children?
 - Are you resolved to stop provoking?
 - If so, write them a letter asking for forgiveness
- In what areas do your children need godly guidance?
 - How can you use Scripture to provide that guidance?
- How does using Scripture make it easier to teach your children?

Memory Verse: (repeat as a group)

Proverbs 14:26 (654) In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.

Memory Hint: Carry the “memory pack” of all your verses with you so that you can learn and review your verses anywhere: while waiting in lines, waiting in class, or waiting at the dispensary.