

Building A Strong Family Family Bible Study—Volume 1

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Keys to Having a Good Home Bible Study

- Have a family meeting and discuss what night and time of the week would be best to have the study.
- Stick to the time that is agreed upon and start and finish on time!
- Make a decision that this will be a family priority.
- Start with a prayer.
- Give each family member time to discuss what has happened during their day.
- Do not allow the discussion time to become a place for family gripes and arguments.
- Give each family member an opportunity to share how he or she was able to work on last week's lesson.
- Always remember what the purpose of this study is...
 - To develop a closer relationship with God.
 - To develop a closer relationship with each other.
 - To unite as a Godly family.
- Take time to work on your family project.
- End with a prayer.

God's Families

Week #1

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about Christian families.

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 2:20-24

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Family Discussion:

Who were the first man and woman?

How was Eve created?

Why was Eve created?

In Genesis 2:24, how is a family started?

Looking at Deuteronomy 6:4-9...

How much should we love God? (Vs. 5)

Where should we hold God's commandments? (Vs. 6)

Whose responsibility is it to teach children about God? (Vs. 7)

How often should we talk about and teach God's commands? (Vs. 7, 8, 9)

Can you as a family make a commitment to begin talking about God as a family more?

Challenge: Take time to discuss your family's favorite verses in the Bible. Decide on a "theme" verse for your family. Have someone copy it or type it on a piece of paper. Place the verse in several locations through out the house to remind you of your family's commitment to God.

Joshua 24:14-15

Bible Drill: Choose a Family Bible Drill from the list provided. Continue to work on it each week until the family has completed it. After completing the drill, choose another one and add to your Bible knowledge.

God's Plan for Children & Parents

Week #2

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about the relationship between parents and children.

Feasting on the Word:

Deuteronomy 5:16

Ephesians 6:1-4

Family Discussion:

Children, who are you to obey? (Eph. 6:1)

Why are you to obey your parents? (6:1)

In verse 2, Paul writes to “Honor” your father and mother. What does honor mean?
Special esteem or respect – The American Heritage Dictionary

This was the first commandment with what? (6:2)

What was the promise? (6:3)

Fathers, to what should you not provoke your children? (6:4)

How should parents bring up their children? (6:4)

In training a child there must be teaching. What are ways a parent can teach their children?

Concluding thoughts: This passage has beautiful balance. Children are to obey their parents, and parents are to treat their children in such a way that the children will want to obey.

Challenge: Take time to have the children list some things that demonstrate their parents' love for them. Parents take some time to share some things that you feel are admirable qualities in your children. What are some areas that the family needs to improve in? Conclude with a prayer asking God to help your family grow in respecting and loving each other more.

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

A Family of Patience

Week #3

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about patience.

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 12:1-5, then 17:15-17, then 21:1-3 (Abraham's patience)

Ephesians 4:2

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

Family Discussion:

What promises did God make to Abraham when he was 75 years old?

How old was Abraham when his son, Isaac, was finally born?

So, how long did Abraham have to wait for God's promise to start coming true?

God promised to make Abraham's family into a great nation. How long do you think it took for that promise to come true? (days? Months? Years? Centuries?)

Read what Hebrews 6:13-15 says about Abraham!

Next time you have to wait awhile for something to happen, what can you do to make the waiting easier? Discuss some examples.

Sometimes, to have patience means to wait for something to happen, like Abraham did. Other times, to have patience means to be tolerant of other people. What does Ephesians 4:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 mean? Think of some situations when it is hard to be patient with a family member. How can you show patience to your family?

Challenge:

A proverb is a wise saying. Read these two proverbs about patience: Proverbs 14:29 and 15:18. Now let each family member make up his or her own wise saying about patience.

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

A Family of Kindness

Week #4

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about kindness.

Feasting on the Word:

Mark 2:1-12 (the kindness of 4 friends)

Matthew 25:31-46

Family Discussion:

In the story in Mark 2, how did the friends of the paralyzed man show kindness?

What might have happened to the paralyzed man if his friends had not helped him get to Jesus?

How did Jesus show kindness to the paralyzed man? (2 ways)

In Matthew 25, Jesus explains that when we do something kind for another person, we are also showing kindness to whom?

If Jesus were in the hospital, would you go visit him? If Jesus were hungry, would you give him something to eat? Of course you would. When you think of people who are in need, picture Jesus in that situation. It may make it easier to show kindness!

Discuss Proverbs 14:21 and also verse 31. Think of some ways your family can show kindness to needy people. Plan a project!

What is the opposite of kindness? Read Ephesians 4:31 and 32 to find out how families should treat each other and how they should NOT treat each other.

Challenge:

Each family member do at least one random act of kindness tomorrow. Think of a way to be helpful to someone, or surprise somebody with an act of love! Keep your idea a secret until it is done, then tomorrow night, tell each other about your experience. How does it make you feel to be kind to others?

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Being Thankful

Week #5

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about being thankful.

Feasting on the Word:

Luke 17:11-19

Leviticus 13:45-46

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Luke 9:16

Philippians 4:6

Family Discussion:

What did the Law of Moses command lepers to do? (Leviticus 13:45-46) How would you have felt if you had leprosy and had to live as an outcast?

How many lepers came to Jesus? What did they want?

Jesus told the lepers to go and show themselves to the priest. What happened as they went on their way?

How many of the men remembered to say thank you? What did Jesus say to the man who came back? (verses 17-19)

Under what circumstances should we give thanks to God? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Read Luke 9:16. What did Jesus always do before eating a meal? Does your family remember to thank God before each meal?

Many times when we pray, we are asking for things. What should we remember to do when God answers our prayers? How do you tell God thank you? Discuss Philippians 4:6.

Challenge:

Count your blessings. Have each family member tell 5 things they are thankful for.

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Being Responsible

Week #6

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about being responsible.

Feasting on the Word:

Daniel 6:1-23

Colossians 3:22-24

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Family Discussion:

What responsibilities did King Darius give to Daniel? (verses 1-2)

Did Daniel do a good job? How do you know? (verse 3)

Some men were jealous of Daniel and wanted to get him in trouble with the king, but they could not find anything wrong with his work. Why couldn't they find fault with Daniel? (verse 4)

Daniel was not corrupt or negligent. That means that he didn't steal from the king (he could be trusted), and he didn't neglect to do what he was told. Was Daniel was a responsible person? Are you?

Being responsible means being trustworthy. When Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, did Daniel find out that God was trustworthy? Was God the one who was responsible for saving Daniel's life?

Read the verses in Colossians. They are about how slaves should be responsible even when their masters are not watching. How could this same principle apply to you when you are working at school or at your job? How could it apply to children when their parents give them chores to do?

The verses in 1 Thessalonians could be titled, "How To Live a Responsible Life." Talk about ways of putting that into practice.

Challenge:

List the responsibilities that each family member has at home. What can each of you do to be more responsible? Who is always watching?

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Respecting Others

Week #7

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about respecting others.

Feasting on the Word:

1 Samuel, chapter 26

Luke 6:31

1 Peter 2:17 and Romans 12:10

Family Discussion:

King Saul tried many times to kill David. Then one day, David had the chance to get revenge. He could have killed Saul while Saul was sleeping. But, what did David do instead?

David showed respect to King Saul. Did Saul deserve it? Why do you think David showed him respect anyway?

What did King Saul do when he found out that David had spared his life? (verse 21)

Children—Tell about ways you can show respect to these people: parents, grandparents, teachers, policemen, the elders.

Parents—Share ways you can show respect to these people: (Husband/wife, children, neighbors, employer, the elders).

Why do you think Luke 6:31 is called “the golden rule?” How can this verse help you to show respect to others?

Do you think it is a command from God that you should respect other people? Read 1 Peter 2:17 and Romans 12:10 to find out!

Challenge:

This week show respect for each other. Listen with interest when someone is telling you about his or her day. Pick up your own messes. Don't aggravate each other. Treat everyone else the way YOU want to be treated!

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

A Family that Shares

Week #8

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about sharing.

Feasting on the Word:

John 6:1-13

Romans 12:13 and Hebrews 13:16

Acts 4:32-35

Family Discussion:

Why was there a crowd of people following Jesus? What did Jesus ask Philip?

What did Philip reply? What food did Andrew find among the people? Whose lunch was it? What did Jesus do with his lunch?

How many people were fed because the little boy shared his lunch? Did everyone get enough to eat? How much food was left over?

Can you make dinner-for-one become enough food to feed more than 5,000 people? Why not? How was Jesus able to do it?

What does Romans 12:13 say about sharing? How does God feel when we share with others, according to Hebrews 13:16?

When the church began, the believers were united like one big happy family. What did they do, according to Acts 4:32? The next verses tell us that there were no needy persons among them. Why not?

What else can you share besides material things? Your time? Your love? What else? The best thing of all that anyone can share is the good news of Jesus Christ!

Challenge:

Discuss some ways that your family can share with others. Plan a sharing project, such as giving some of your clothes to an organization that helps the needy. Maybe you could donate cans of food, as well. Can you think of other ways to share?

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Self-control

Week #9

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about self-control.

Feasting on the Word:

Matthew 26:57-67 and 27:19-31

Psalms 106:3

Romans 12:17-18

Titus 2:11-12

Family Discussion:

What bad things did the Jews and Romans do to Jesus? List as many as you can remember. (Reread the story if you need to.)

When the Jews slapped Jesus and hit him with their fists, did Jesus go into a rage? When Jesus was flogged, did he curse at anyone? When the soldiers dressed Jesus up like a king and made fun of him, did Jesus fight them? When the soldiers spit on him, did he spit on them, too? Did Jesus have self-control?

How do you think God feels about people who practice self-control? Read Psalms 106:3. Blessed is he who does right...how often?

When someone makes you mad, what is the wrong thing to do? What is the best thing to do? Read Romans 12:17-18

When you are tempted to do wrong, how can you have self-control? Find out by reading Titus 2:11-12.

Do you like to be punished? The best way to avoid punishment is to do what is right! Discipline yourself! Remember self-control means YOU be in charge of YOU!

Challenge:

Have you seen the bracelets that say “WWJD?” It means “What Would Jesus Do?” The story you read today reminds you that Jesus had excellent self-control. This week, every time you are tempted to do something wrong, or to get angry, remember to ask yourself that question. Then do what Jesus would do if he were in that situation!

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Telling the Truth

Week #10

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about telling the truth.

Feasting on the Word:

Acts 4:32 through 5:11

Revelation 21:8

Proverbs 12:22

Family Discussion:

What happened to Ananias when he told a lie? What happened to Sapphira when she lied, too?

If Ananias and Sapphira had told the truth about how much money they kept from the sale of the land, and how much they were giving to the church, how would this story have been different?

Why do you think verse 11 says, “Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events”?

Who always knows when you are lying? What does God say in Revelation 21:8 about liars?

Read Proverbs 12:22. How does God feel about lying? How does he feel about people who are honest?

Jesus had a saying that is repeated over and over in the New Testament. Find out what it was by reading Matthew 18:3, Luke 21:3, and Luke 23:43. Do you think Jesus always told the truth? Why?

Challenge:

Imagine what would happen if no one ever told the truth. Could you believe your history teacher? Would you trust your doctor? What if an air traffic controller lied to a pilot about a clear runway? Think of some more examples. Why is it so important to always tell the truth?

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Forgiveness

Week #11

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about forgiveness.

Feasting on the Word:

Read the paragraph below, then read Genesis 45:1-15 and 50:15-21

Romans 12:17-21

Leviticus 19:18 and Colossians 3:13

Family Discussion:

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. They told Joseph's father that an animal had killed him. Joseph was a slave in Egypt, even spending time in prison for a crime he didn't commit. But God was with Joseph. Years later, God used him to save people from a famine (even his own brothers). Read what happened when the brothers found out that Joseph was the ruler in charge of famine relief! (45:1-15)

Did Joseph forgive his brothers? What did he do to prove that he forgave his brothers for what they had done? (50:15-21)

Joseph was a powerful ruler in Egypt. He could have locked his brothers away in a prison for the rest of their lives, or even had them killed! Why do you think Joseph chose not to get revenge? (50:19, 20)

What does the Bible say about revenge? Discuss Romans 12:17-21.

When you choose not to forgive someone you are "holding a grudge." Is it a sin to hold a grudge? Discuss Leviticus 19:18.

When it seems hard to forgive someone, think about Jesus dying on the cross to forgive sins. Think of what he endured...

He did that to forgive YOU of YOUR sins! Is it too much for him to ask you to forgive others? Think about Colossians 3:13.

Challenge:

Try carrying a brick around with you for awhile. Think of the brick as a grudge that you have against someone. The brick will become heavy and burdensome. Eventually, it will be a relief to get rid of it. The point is: Don't carry a grudge...it's not worth it!

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Saying “I’m Sorry”

Week #12

OBJECTIVE: To learn the importance of saying, “I’m sorry.”

Feasting on the Word:

Jonah, chapters 1 and 2

James 5:16

1 John 1:8-10

Luke 18:9-14

Family Discussion:

What did God tell Jonah to do? What did Jonah do instead?

Jonah knew he was guilty of disobeying God. When the storm arose, the sailors asked Jonah what he had done to make his God angry. Did Jonah blame it on someone else, did he tell a lie, or did he admit that it was his fault? (verse 12)

Jonah told the sailors to throw him into the sea. When they did, what happened to the sea? Then what happened to Jonah?

What did Jonah do while he was inside the fish? (2:1) Do you think God forgave Jonah? Why do you think so?

What should you do when you have committed a sin: Blame it on someone else? Lie about it? Say you are sorry and stop doing wrong?

How does the Bible instruct us to say “I’m sorry?” Read and discuss James 5:16 and 1 John 1:8-10.

Saying “I’m sorry” is very important, but it is also important to stop doing what you did wrong. Some people are only sorry that they got caught. Some are truly sorry enough to repent. How can you tell the difference?

Challenge:

Compare the attitudes of the two men in the story found in Luke 18:9-14. Who had the right attitude? How does this story apply to you?

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Obeying Authority

Week #13

OBJECTIVE: To read and discuss what God says about obeying authority.

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 6:5 through 7:5

Romans 13:1-5

1 Peter 2:13-14

Ephesians 5:22-28 and 6:1-2.

Family Discussion:

God gave Noah specific instructions. What did God want Noah to build? Did he expect Noah to build it a certain way? What did God tell Noah to take into the ark? Which people were allowed to enter it?

Did Noah obey God's authority? Quote Genesis 6:22. What do you think would have happened if Noah had disobeyed God?

Only Noah and his family were saved. What happened to everyone else on earth (the ones who were disobedient to God)?

God has authority over every person. We must obey him. God also expects us to obey other people who have authority over us. Read the verses listed above from Romans and 1 Peter. Name all the people whom you must obey. (parents, boss, teacher, police, etc.)

Why do we have to have rules? Imagine what this country would be like if there were no laws at all. What would school be like if there were no rules?

What are God's rules for families? Read and discuss Ephesians 5:22-28 and 6:1-2.

Challenge:

What are your family's rules? Discuss why those rules are necessary. What are the consequences of disobeying the rules? What are the benefits of obeying the rules?

Bible Drill: Take time to work on your Bible drills. (Refer to list.)

Suggestions for Family Projects

- Memorize the books of the New Testament.
- Memorize the books of the Old Testament.
- Develop an outreach of service that you and your family can do.
 - Write cards to the missionaries.
 - Write cards to the shut-ins, widows or widowers.
 - Write notes of appreciation to your Bible class teachers.
 - Rake someone's yard.
 - Put together a care package for someone in need.
 - Take some of your allowance and go shopping for Christmas presents for a needy child.
 - Go visit the nursing home.
- Memorize I Corinthians 13.
- Memorize the 12 Apostles.
- Memorize the 23rd Psalm.
- Memorize the 12 sons of Jacob.
- Memorize the verses that teach us the plan of salvation.

As you can see there are unlimited opportunities to develop your family. Take time to come up with some of your own ideas to put Christianity to work in your family! I know God will bless you!