

Fathers' Studies: Husband-Wife Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 14 OF 52

GOD'S IDEA OF MARRIAGE

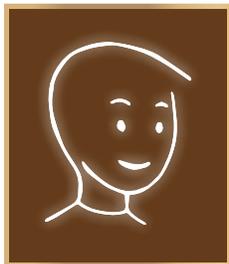
LESSON AIM: To understand the basic reasons for marriage.

KEY VERSE:

1. **GENESIS 2:18** The first marriage was created so that man would not be _____ .
2. **GENESIS 1:27-28** Another purpose of marriage is to have children. God's first commandment to Adam and Eve was to _____ .
3. **GENESIS 2:24** Marriage is to provide togetherness. When a man and woman get married, they become _____ .
4. **MARK 10:6-9** God wants marriage to be permanent. What God has joined together man must not _____ .

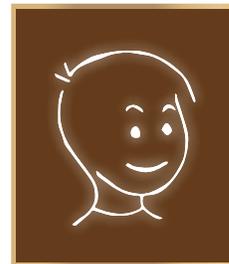
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



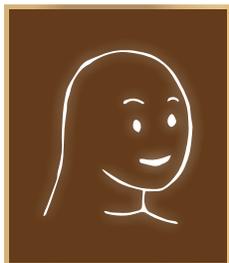
By Yourself

On a sheet of paper write down three good things that your marriage has done for you.



With Your Children

Have "Family Night" once a week and do things together.



With Your Wife

Ask your wife to write down two things that she thinks would help to draw you closer together as a couple. Plan with her how you can do those two things.

Marriage is God's way to take away man's loneliness, to provide a way for people to live and work together, and to have children. Many people say, "We can have all this without marriage." Then why is marriage so important?

MARRIAGE IS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.

It was made by God both for His happiness and the happiness of man. No man-made relationships can give this kind of happiness. Marriage the way God planned it will meet the needs of man's body, mind, feelings, and spirit. Marriage shows the world how much God loves His people (Ephesians 5:25). God promises that when He takes us to heaven, we will celebrate a "marriage feast" with Him.

MARRIAGE IS A SPECIAL PROMISE.

When God "married" his people the Jews, He promised, "I will never leave you or let you alone." (Deuteronomy 31:6). God wants marriage between a man and a woman to be built on a commitment like this. Promises like this help you to feel safe and not afraid of the future. When people live together without a promise, they have more fear. This fear takes away some of the happiness that God wants to see in your home.

MARRIAGE HAS A SPECIAL CEREMONY CALLED A WEDDING.

This is a time for telling family and friends what you have promised to each other. It is a time when the family and friends give their blessing to the marriage. It is a time when you can receive legal permission from the government to be called a family. It is a time to enjoy a special feast with family and friends. It is a time of great happiness. Marriages that start with weddings are not easily broken.

Marriage is a special:

- relationship
- promise
- ceremony

I WILL KEEP MY PROMISE AND MAKE YOU MINE. THEN YOU WILL KNOW THE LORD. (HOSEA 2:20)

WINDOW TO LIFE

Jim and Betty loved each other and wanted to live together. But it didn't seem worth the trouble to get married. They both had friends who had lived together for a long time without getting married. So they decided to do it too.

At first they enjoyed it. But after a while problems started to come up. By now they had a child. Whose last name would the child have? Jim began wanting to visit other women. Betty would get jealous and scold him. Then Jim would get angry and beat her. They thought about separating, but both of them really wanted to stay together.

Then they went to see a Christian counsellor. He showed them two reasons for their problems. The first reason was that they had not made a promise to God, to follow Him. The second reason was that they had not made a marriage promise to each other, to be faithful no matter what happened.

Jim and Betty decided to accept this counsel. When they got married, their problems did not stop all at once. But they are finding ways of solving their problems together as husband and wife.

