

Fathers' Studies: Husband-Wife Relationships

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

LESSON 16 OF 52

LEAVING PARENTS

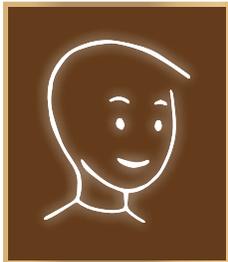
LESSON AIM: To understand what it means for a man to leave his parents when he gets married.

KEY VERSE:

1. **GENESIS 2:24** When a man gets married, he leaves his _____.
2. **MARK 10:7-8** Regarding man and wife, Jesus said that a man is to _____ and to live with his wife.
3. **EPHESIANS 5:31** A man must leave his father and mother when he gets married and _____.
4. **DEUTERONOMY 24:5** The laws of Israel commanded a newly married man to set aside the first year of marriage and give his time to _____.
5. **GENESIS 24:67** When Isaac got married, he and Rebekah were given Sarah's _____ as their own to live in.

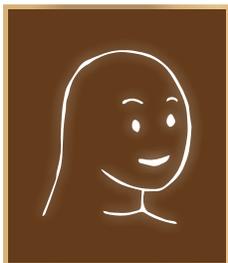
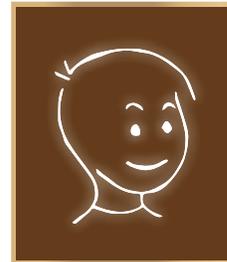
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



By Yourself

You may have anger about hurts from your childhood that has kept you from "leaving home" emotionally. Review Lesson 4 on Anger. Then take steps to deal with your feelings.



With Your Wife

Discuss with her the concept of leaving parents and whether as a couple you have done it. If you have not, plan steps of action to do so.

With Your Children

Let your children go to Bible camp for a week. Talk to them before they leave and after they come back about their feelings on leaving home for a short time.

LEAVING PARENTS

LESSON 16 OF 52

“FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER, AND WILL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE...” GENESIS 2:24

These words that God used about marriage in the beginning are so important that they are repeated three other places in the Bible: **MATTHEW 19:5, MARK 10:7-8 AND EPHESIANS 5:31.**

Of course, it is just as important for the woman to leave father and mother as it is for the man. Leaving means two things for a married couple:

LEAVING PHYSICALLY Leaving physically means making a home of your own that is separate from your parents' home. This may be far away or nearby, but it is a separation. It is good for each couple to have living space of their own.

Leaving physically also means financial separation. The new husband becomes the provider for his wife. They should not depend on their parents for money and life's needs. Sometimes, even if they don't mean to, parents will use money and gifts to control their married children. This causes problems in the marriage. Leaving physically helps to strengthen the husband as the leader of his home.

LEAVING EMOTIONALLY Leaving emotionally means that the couple both feel satisfied about leaving their families of origin. They have left home with their parents' permission and blessing. They have cleared up any bad feelings between themselves and their families. They agree that their marriage relationship is more important than their ties to their families.

Leaving is not turning away from parents and forgetting about them. The couple can still enjoy the friendship and advice of their parents. They can still help their parents. But they must take the big step into a new life of their own. This helps their marriage grow strong. It sets up a relationship where the parents can give advice without controlling their children's lives. It sets up the new husband as leader and provider for his home.

FOR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER, AND WILL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE. (GENESIS 2:24)

The phrase “A man will leave his father and mother” is found four times in the Bible.

Physical leaving is:

- a different house
- your own means of support

Emotional leaving is:

- having parents' blessing on the marriage
- putting marriage relationship first

Couples should:

- be friends with parents
- ask parents for advice

WINDOW TO LIFE

Fred and Mary had been married seven years. When they got married they lived with Mary's parents. However, during the past year there had been so many disagreements between Fred and Mary that they were thinking of separating.

They went to a Christian pastor and told him their problems. He said that the problems likely came from living with the parents. Mary's parents wanted to help them, but their help often got in the way when Fred tried to lead his family. It would be best for Fred and Mary to move.

Soon after, Fred and his family moved to another village. Sure enough, their home life became happier as they set up a family life all their own.

