

Fathers' Studies: Husband-Wife Relationships

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

LESSON 20 OF 52

A DILIGENT HOMEMAKER

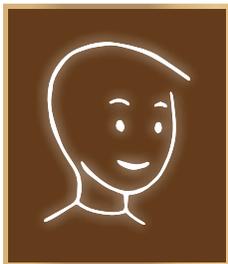
LESSON AIM: To show husbands how they can help their wives succeed as homemakers.

KEY VERSE:

1. **EPHESIANS 5:25-26** Husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the church. He _____ the church and set it apart for Himself.
2. **1 PETER 3:3-4** Husbands can show value to their wives by showing less attention to outward beauty and more attention to _____.
3. **1 TIMOTHY 2:9-10** Women who are faithful Christians should be known for their _____.
4. **PROVERBS 31:27-28** When a woman looks after her family's needs, her children _____ her and her husband _____ her.

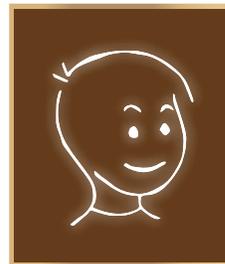
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



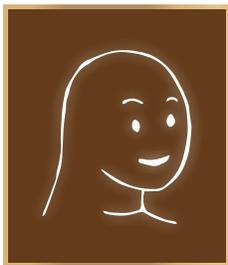
By Yourself

Write down one thing your wife can do which you like (examples: cooking, sewing, singing). Then write three things which you can do in the next month that will help her do that thing even better.



With Your Children

Encourage your children to appreciate their mother. For example, teach them to say "Thank you" to their mother for their meal when they have finished eating.



With Your Wife

Ask your wife how she is doing with her weekly schedule, and offer her some of your time to discuss it. If necessary offer some of your time to look after the children so that she will be free to do something which is especially meaningful to her.

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LESSON 20 OF 52

A verse in Proverbs says that a man who finds a wife finds a good thing (Proverb 18:22). A good wife is a blessing from the Lord. A man can do a lot to help his wife be a successful homemaker and a capable person.

LOVE (Ephesians 5:25) A husband who loves his wife will try to help her become all that she can be and find fulfillment as a wife and mother.

PRAISE (Proverbs 31:28-29) A wise husband appreciates the good things his wife does and tells her so. This strengthens her to do even more good deeds. Her husband also teaches the children to praise her.

TRUST (Proverbs 31:11) A husband's trust and confidence free his wife to be creative and to develop her abilities.

COMMUNICATION (Proverbs 31:10-31) A wise husband cares where his wife is and what she is doing throughout the day. He also lets her know where he is and what he is doing. They have talked a lot to each other about their activities and have taken time to plan. He has encouraged her in her activities. She is enthusiastic about her activities because she knows her husband approves of them.

HOME-CENTRED HEART (Proverbs 31:10-22) A successful wife has her heart in her home. Although she may go shopping and help others in the community, her home and family are closest to her heart. Her acts of mercy grow out of an abundant home life. To encourage this home life, a wise husband also "turns his heart toward home".

A good husband helps his wife find fulfillment in what she does.

Keys to encouraging fulfillment:

- praise
- trust
- communication
- love

A SENSIBLE AND UNDERSTANDING WIFE IS FROM THE LORD. (PROVERBS 19:14)

WINDOW TO LIFE

Janet felt that life was just an endless round of cleaning up the house, feeding the children, washing dishes, and washing clothes. Janet reached out to her husband Harry for help.

Harry realized that he was being very unfair to his wife. He began to improve his ways. He made a special point of thanking Janet for the good meals she prepared. He started teaching the children to do the same. Harry spent time each week with Janet to help her plan her days. Harry even took one evening a week to care for the children while Janet went to the local community centre to take a course in pottery making, something she had wanted to do for years.

With this encouragement, Janet began to take some steps of her own. She worked out a babysitting exchange with a neighbour one morning each week so that she could do volunteer work at the local hospital. She found she could do a better job looking after her children and her house when she had some goals at which to aim. The whole family was happier.

