

Fathers' Studies: Family Responsibilities

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

LESSON 41 OF 52

THE HUSBAND AS A LEADER

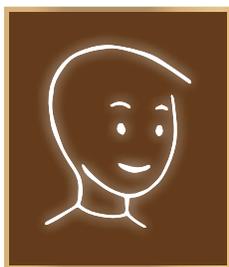
LESSON AIM: To understand why God expects the husband to be the leader in his home.

KEY VERSE:

1. **1 TIMOTHY 3:4-5** A spiritual leader is expected to manage his _____ well.
2. **ACTS 10:1-2** Cornelius was a good man who led his family in _____ and _____.
3. **JEREMIAH 35:18-19** The Rechabite family was remembered and rewarded because they followed everything that _____ their father told them to do.
4. **DEUTERONOMY 32:46-47** A father who has God's words in his _____ can tell them to his _____, and together they can do them.
5. **EPHESIANS 5:23, 25** The husband is _____ of his wife. He must also _____ his wife as Christ loved the church.

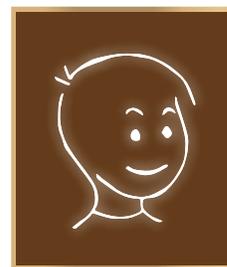
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



By Yourself

Find one area in your family life where you are not a good leader. Make a plan how you will improve.

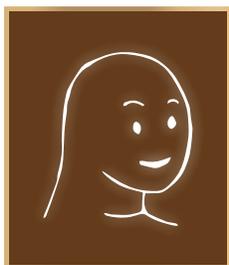


With Your Wife

Many wives wish their husbands would be better leaders in some part of their family life. What does your wife think? Ask her. Then pray about it.

With Your Children

Play a game of *Follow the Leader*, with you as leader. Tell them that you want to be a good leader in all areas of family life. Ask them to help you by giving you suggestions and being good followers.



THE HUSBAND AS A LEADER

LESSON 41 OF 52

When God made the first family, He made the husband the leader. God made Adam first and gave him instructions for taking care of the Garden of Eden. Then from Adam's rib God made Eve to help him. Here is God's plan for leadership:

1. **CHRIST**—leader of the church and the husband
2. **HUSBAND**—leader of the wife and family
3. **WIFE**—helps the husband lead the children

Many times husbands allow their wives to lead their families. This is not God's way. Wives are to be partners and helpers in family life, not leaders. It is true that men and women are spiritually the same to God. But in the family God has given them different responsibilities because of the way he made their minds, bodies, and feelings. When the husband leads his wife, he is fitting in with God's plan for himself and his family.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP God wants families to grow spiritually. He wants to work through the father to provide spiritual leadership. This means things like taking the family to church and leading in family worship. The father is to teach and be a good example of spiritual living.

LEADING THE WIFE The husband is to lead the wife in the same way that Jesus Christ leads the church. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ look to him to lead them. A wife should also look to her husband to lead her. When a husband provides this leadership, the family has security.

LEADING BY LOVE It is not God's plan for man to rule like a big boss. He is not to sit around and give orders to the family. He is to lead them by love. A loving leader will do things with his family, listen to them, get advice from his wife, and not expect his family to do what he is unwilling to do. He will set a good example in all areas of life.

FOR THE HUSBAND IS THE HEAD OF HIS WIFE AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. (EPHESIANS 5:23 NIV)

God gave husbands the responsibility to be the leaders.

Wives are partners, not family leaders.

Spiritual leadership should come from the father.

Leading should be done in love.

WINDOW TO LIFE

Mark and Sally met and got married while they were in Bible school. After school Mark became a good preacher. He spent a lot of time away from home preaching. Sally took over the job of running the home and training the children. Even when Mark was home, he left the training of the children up to Sally. Sometimes Sally would ask him to help her, but he never did.

This seemed all right while the children were young. But when the children became teenagers they began to go with the village gangs and get into trouble. Mark was not able to stop them because they would not listen to him. It was now too late to do what he should have been doing earlier in life by being the leader in his home.

