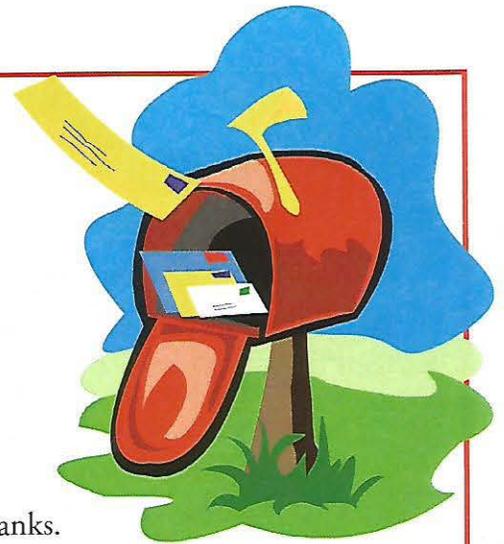


Pleasing God in Our Homes

Theme: Obedience — Obeying God in our family life

Sunday Morning Lesson



Pre-Class Activity: Make a fill-in-the-blank worksheet with lots of blanks. A sample is on page 65 of this Guide, but omit the word “New” from the title and omit the printed verse. This will help the students be prepared for reciting the Memory Verse in class.

Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each student says the verse from memory, the other students may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work to be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Have the Memory Verse printed on a sheet of paper or enlarged on a poster. Begin a wall display that will eventually feature all Memory Verses and the names of students who said them. Prepare a card for each student with his or her name and the Memory Verse citation ready to add to the display.

Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Teaching the Lesson

1. In the classroom Bible, have the students find and mark Ephesians 6:1-4.
2. Tell the Bible story of the first family in the whole world from Genesis 2. Adam had all the animals, but he was still lonely. He needed a friend and helper. God created woman and brought the man and woman together in marriage. Everything was perfect, except Eve and Adam chose to sin. In doing this, they hurt themselves and their relationship with God. They suffered the consequences of sin, but God was still with them. In time, Adam and Eve had children and thus started the first family.
3. Tell how families come to exist today. A man and a woman love each other and decide to be married. They become husband and wife and promise to stick together. They must love each other in a special way and help each other. They will get a place to live and have work to do. They will have problems, but must work together and keep loving each other. They should help each other love and obey God. In time, they may have children and start a family. The children will grow up, and their parents should teach them about God. Their family should come to Bible

classes and worship. Everyone in a family must love, respect, and help each other. Read together Ephesians 6:1-4. Discuss different responsibilities in marriage and family.

4. Use items from the Letters from Heaven Package to illustrate and reinforce the lesson story, taking them out one at a time as you need them. A real bridal veil may be included to illustrate the wedding ceremony. A man's wedding band may be used to discuss how the man is head of his wife, just as Christ is head of the church, and how the husband is to love and treat his wife. A woman's wedding band may be used to discuss how a wife is to follow her husband's lead. A picture of Jesus on the cross may be used to discuss what Jesus did for us and how the church is the bride of Christ. Husbands and wives can learn how to love and help each other by remembering the way Christ loved the church.
5. Have two sheets of construction paper or card stock of coordinating colors. While talking with the students about marriage, explain that one sheet represents a man and the other represents a woman. Each is an individual with his or her own characteristics. This man and woman fall in love and decide to get married. In doing this, they become one. At this point, glue the two sheets together. Show the students that both sides are different, but glue together they form one piece of paper. Don't they look great together? They are so happy together! (Save this visual to use in the next lesson.)
6. Put the key verse scroll on the Letters from Heaven Wall.

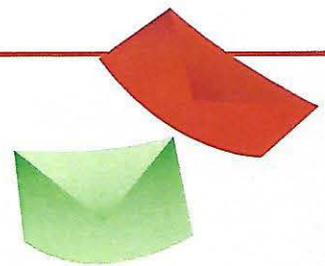
Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- God, Give Us Christian Homes

Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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Wednesday Night Lesson



Pre-Class Activity: For older students, have a word search puzzle featuring words about the family. For younger students, have paper and crayons for them to draw a picture of their family.

Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about Jesus or following Jesus.

Prayer

Starter

You know how glue works. You squeeze it out, spread it on, and stick things together with it. If it's good glue and you stick the pieces together right, they will stay together. The glue holds the pieces together so that they form one object. A husband and wife are to "stick together" this way in their marriage.

God told Adam and Eve to cleave to each other. The word "cleave" means to stick together like objects glued to each other. God's way for a husband and wife is for them to stay together and love each other as long as they both live. When a husband and wife decide to do this, they begin what can be a happy home.

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Lesson

1. *Objective: Demonstrate how a husband and wife are to stick together*

☀ Show how glue works. Contact cement is especially appropriate for this demonstration. Brush the cement on two pieces of wood. Allow each piece to dry just a few moments as you discuss how a man and a woman meet, get to know each other, fall in love, and decide to get married. Stick the two pieces of wood together. They should make an immediate and strong bond. Pass the wood around and allow the students an opportunity to pull the wood apart. Read Genesis 2:24. Talk about how the word "cleave" means to stick together. Discuss how a husband and wife should stick together for their whole lives.

2. *Objective: Reinforce husbands and wives staying together and illustrate what happens when they don't*

☀ Use the colored sheets glued together for a visual in the previous lesson. Talk about God's plan for a husband and wife to love each other and stick together. Point out again how nice the "couple" looks together. Sadly, we all know husbands and wives who decide not to stay together. They decide to divorce, and this tears people apart. At this point, tear the glued pages to show how this ruins both sheets. Talk with the students about their planning to stay together once they get married.

3. *Objective: Illustrate how family members are to love each other and work together*

Select students to role play dad, mom, and kids. Have a list or pictures of chores the family does, such as cooking, washing clothes, vacuuming the house, washing the car, taking out the trash, and dusting. Set dad apart and say that he has to do all the chores. Have dad work the chores while everyone else talks, laughs, and plays. Next, set mom apart and say that she has to do all the chores. Everyone one else has fun. Finally, select one child and say that she or he has to do all the chores while everyone else has fun. Talk about what's wrong with this and what would make it better. Discuss how God's plan works and is good for everyone.

4. *Objective: Illustrate how important it is to respect roles in marriage and family*

☀ Tell all students that everyone is in charge. Each person has the right to tell others how to act and what to do. Explain that for one minute all students are to exercise their authority. Explain ahead of time that when the teacher says a minute is up that everyone should stop what they are doing and saying. It shouldn't take long for this scene to erupt into chaos. Have students sit down and discuss the problem. Talk about the roles God has given in marriage – the husband as the head and the wife as the helper. Talk about roles God has given in a family – parents teach and train their children and children are respectful and obedient.

5. *Objective: Explain and reinforce RESPECT*

Make large letters spelling “respect” from poster board. If space allows, make each letter from a single sheet of poster board. Attach the letters to a bulletin board or wall so students will be able to reach it while standing. Explain that you will all complete the activity by writing on the letters ways to show respect. Ask students for examples of showing respect in marriage and family. Write



these on the marker board. Lead them to any they might overlook. With input from students, discuss and modify the list to come up with all the ways respect is shown in marriage and in family life. As time and ability allow, have students write the ways to show respect on the letters themselves. For the sake of time, the teacher may do the writing. It may be necessary for the teacher to complete this activity after class. In further discussions during the quarter, you may think of other ways to show respect, and these may be added to the display.

Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- God, Give Us Christian Homes

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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