

The Christian Home

Colossians 3:18-4:6

MEMORY VERSE

COLOSSIANS 3:20

“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Pencils and drawing paper.

As many paper doll templates as the number of children in you class, construction paper, glue, crayons or markers.

A dry erase board, dry erase marker and a kitchen timer.

ATTENTION GETTER!

London Bridge

Use the new words below to play the old game of “London Bridge.” Have two children face each other and clasp their hands together to form an arch. Have the other children pass under the “bridge.” At the end of the first verse have the children bring down their arms and catch a child. Then during the second verse they can gently shake them. Rotate so that other children have an opportunity.

Words to the new version:

The Lord, He wants us to obey
To obey
To obey
The Lord, He wants us to obey,
Obey our parents.

When we don't, it makes God sad
Makes Him sad
Makes Him sad
When we don't, it makes Him sad,
So let's make Him glad!

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: pass out pencils and blank drawing paper and ask them to draw a “family portrait” of their family. Then explain that today we are going to learn about what God has to say about our families and what He wants us to do in them.

LESSON TIME!

It's been said that the breakdown of the family unit in a nation, is the beginning of the breakdown of that nation. At one time, Rome ruled as one of the most powerful nations in history. The Roman Empire spanned across the entire world. Yet, primarily because of the destruction of their family units and the people's desire to follow their sin rather than God, we only read about them in our history books. The family relationship and other relationships are very important to the Lord.

God is very concerned about our relationship with Him and others. As Christians you represent Jesus at all times. In whatever we do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17). Our lesson will encourage us in our relationship with God, our family and others, so we may live every day as unto the Lord. **God desires us to honor Him in all of our relationships.**

COLOSSIANS 3:18,19

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

The Apostle Paul describes three relationships in our passage. In the first relationship we learn of the love and submission of husbands and wives to one another. God has a design for the family and has given us the instructions to follow so we may know what He desires for us. We would have chaos if we were left to figure out our own family structure.

We are told here that wives are to submit to their husbands as the leader in the home. The Bible clearly says that the husband is to be the authority in the home. In Ephesians we learn that the husband and wife should be filled with the Spirit and submitting to one another for there to be a healthy relationship. But God also knew that there could only be one leader in the home for the home to operate at its best. So God appointed the man to be that leader.

So it is pleasing to God when wives recognize the authority that God has given to their husbands and they come under that authority. It is also pleasing to God that the husbands use his authority always for the wife's benefit. When a husband loves his wife as Jesus loves His church, then the home will be operating in the right way.

We see in our Bible verses today that the husband has been given the responsibility of loving his wife without being bitter against her. He is to love her with a sacrificing and serving love as Christ has for us. This kind of love can only come from God and

He has made it clear that the husband must love his wife “even as Christ loved the church” (Ephesians 5:18-33).

A wife has little trouble submitting to a husband who loves her, while the love of the wife is seen in her submission to the husband. A happy home is only the result of an atmosphere of mutual sacrifice and submission grounded in the love of Christ. **God desires us to honor Him in all of our relationships.**

Why is all of this so important? Maybe it seems like it will be many years down the road that you will be married. But it is important because should the Lord not come back in the near future, one day each of you will be making a decision about whom to marry. The Bible is clear that a Christian should only marry a Christian. And then being married they need to live the way that God wants them to. The husband needs to love his wife, even sacrificing for her. And the wife needs to submit to the husband’s leadership. This is how God has established it in His Word, the Bible.

COLOSSIANS 3:20,21

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

The second relationship in our passage deals with parents and children. A lot has changed in our nation over the past few decades and as a result children today are faced with more problems and responsibilities. The moral stability of those in authority has diminished as well as the breakdown of marriages across the country.

Despite the chaos, God has a simple plan for families. He wants children to obey their parents. The child who does not learn to obey his parents is not likely to grow up obeying any authority. Children are to obey “in all things” because this will please the Lord. Sometimes obedience will be hard to do but remember that the Lord loves us and our motive to obey should be to honor Him.

Along with obedience to God come blessings. God has established the home so that the children would submit to the parents as well as being in a place of protection. Listening and obeying our parents it is always for our good, because they know what is best for us just like our heavenly Father knows what is best for us. **God desires us to honor Him in all of our relationships.**

The word “fathers” in Colossians 3:21 could also be translated “parents” as it is in Hebrews 11:23. Parents have a tremendous responsibility to train their children in the ways of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Parents must make it as easy as possible for children to obey. Moms and dads will one day stand before the Lord to answer how they raised their children. The most important thing that will be on God’s mind is not how much was given to their children or how many fun trips a family made during the summer. The most important thing will be did we bring our children up in the ways of the Lord.

God does not want parents to abuse their authority or provoke their children. They need to be like Jesus, kind and loving, not harsh and unreasonable. It is God’s desire for parents to encourage their children, not discourage them. Children crave the attention and affection of their parents. As a parent spends time with their child, they will learn how to listen to them, giving them security of knowing that they are loved.

It is so important for parents to understand the responsibility they have. It is also important for children to realize their responsibility and learn at a young age how God wants them to raise their families in the future. It is not easy being a parent, but with God’s help we can do it and our families can be a great blessing to God. And we can be a blessing to one another.

Paper People

Use the enclosed “Paper Doll” template. Let the children cut out the paper people while you discuss the relationships in the lesson and how God wants us to be.

Let them color the people in whatever setting they would like: husband/wife, child/parent, friend/friend or boss/employee. Next have them draw a setting with crayons or markers for their people on construction paper. They can then paste their people to the construction paper.

Allow a few of the children to make up a story of how their characters in their pictures are demonstrating what we learned in our lesson. What ways can we be like Jesus in our relationships?

COLOSSIANS 3:22 - 4:1

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Our third relationship in our passage deals with masters and slaves. In the day that Paul wrote this letter, slavery was a common practice. Both the master and the slave were encouraged to be honest and fair. A Christian servant owed complete obedience to his master as a ministry to the Lord. If their master was a Christian, they were not to take advantage of their relationship but strive to do a better job because he or she was a Christian.

On the other hand, Christian masters were to treat their servants fairly. Though both Christian masters and slaves were united in Christ as a common bond, they were encouraged to remember that they were working for the Lord, to serve Him.

Today this relationship of master and slave could be likened to the relationship of employer and employee since we don't have slaves. Christian workers ought to be the best worker on the job, even if no one is around to watch.

As Christians, we need to obey orders and not argue. We need to act as if Jesus Himself were our boss. When others see our honesty and integrity as a worker, they will see a difference in our life that will point them to Jesus.

Our reward will then be from the Lord who watches everything. Sometimes work will be hard and unfair, but the Lord will reward those who work as unto Him. **God desires us to honor Him in all of our relationships.**

As children how can we be pleasing to the Lord in all we do? Do any of you have chores that you have to do? We can be faithful to do our chores, do them well and work even when no one is looking. What about homework from school? We can be faithful to complete it without grumbling or complaining knowing that the Lord will reward us. We can learn now how to have the right attitudes that please the Lord, so it will come easier when we grow up.

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

It sure seems strange that the Apostle Paul went from the subject of relationships to the subject of prayer. But when you stop to think about it, what else would we do that would be more important than lifting up others in prayer? The Lord will help us in our relationship as we bring our needs before Him.

We are to be devoted to prayer. Through prayer, we acknowledge that we are dependent on God and it is through our persistent prayers that we reveal our faith that God does answer them.

Faith should not die if the answers do not come immediately, for the delay may be God's way of working His will in our life. When we feel weary in our prayers, know that God is present, always listening to do what is best. Because God is faithful, we need to be thankful when He does answer our prayers.

Through prayer we will develop a heart that desires others to be saved. God will prepare us to take every opportunity to share the good news with them. When we tell others about Jesus, it is important to always be gracious in what we say. Remember that sharing the good news is a great privilege as well as a great responsibility.

God is not only concerned about our relationship with Him, but with others also. Most of the time we will find it easy to build a great relationship with others. But a time will come when we will be stretched to love and respect someone who is unlovable.

As Christians we represent Christ, and with His help through prayer, we can allow Him to work in every relationship. We truly will be blessed as we follow the Lord in obedience. **God desires us to honor Him in all of our relationships.**

Obey Relay

Split the children into two teams. Put two vertical acrostics on the chalkboard that read Obey Your Parents. Set the kitchen timer for five minutes. Team members will take turns filling in the acrostic with ways to obey or bless their parents. The winner is the team who has filled in the most ways to show how we can obey our parents when the timer rings.

Use the ideas that they have come up with as examples for them to obey their parents during the coming week.

Example of an acrostic: Obey your parents

Open the door for my mom

B

BE nice to my litter brother/sister

Y

Y

Go t**O** bed when I am asked

U

R

Pick up my room

A

R

E

N

Take out the trash

S

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to honor the Lord in all of their relationships. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Paper Doll

LET THE CHILDREN SHARE THE TEMPLATES, FOLDING UP A LONG STRIP OF PAPER THEN TRACING THE PEOPLE ON THE TOP LAYER. TEMPLATES ARE BEST CUT OUT OF STIFF PAPER OR CARDBOARD.

