

Living the Good Life

Marriage and Family

August 26

Reading Plan

\*We realize that there of many of you that “Married with Children” label does not currently apply to you. You might be a youth, someone who is single, of a single parent. In the Take It Further box this week we will have a link to a helpful article about these area’s as well. They also have ways to reflect right in the article, which we encourage you to do.

Day 1-

READ: [Ephesians 5:1-2, 22-33; 6:4](#)

REFLECT:

- This passage is loaded with helpful information and instructions of how to do family the right way. As we read it we recognize how extremely different it is from the world’s view.
- As you read through this portion of scripture, what does it point out as how God’s view of a family that is operating well? Where does this differ from the worlds view of family?

PRACTICE:

- It would get easy to look at this and feel overwhelmed at all the things you could do better. Choose one, and only one, thing that you want to make an effort to change today. Keep that as the one change you try to make in the foreseeable future.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ:

- A message for Youth: <https://www.truthfulwords.org/articles/lead.html>

Day 2-

READ: [Ephesians 5:1-2; Matthew 19:4-6](#)

REFLECT:

- Christian marriage challenges the worldview of marriage as a contract “What do I get out of this?” This is not how God views marriage at all, it is actually the opposite.
- Nothing uncovers selfishness and immaturity like marriage and family life. Every family is a mini-gospel story needing a Savior to lead them not into the “good life” but a godly one.

PRACTICE:

- Where has immaturity in your life been revealed as you are a spouse and parent?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ:

- For Singles: <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/singles/how-to-embrace-your-single-season.html>

Day 3-

READ: [Ephesians 5:25-29; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7](#)

REFLECT:

- Husbands, here are three examples of scripture of how God instructs us to treat our wives. There are a number of additional verses throughout the Bible that are also on this matter, which lets us know how important it is in God’s eyes.
- What are three ways these verses say husbands should treat their wives?

PRACTICE:

- Husbands, what is the one way these verses say to treat you wife that could use “the most work?”
- Wives, what is an area that your husband does a good job at? Make it a point to let him know that today and compliment him!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ:

- For Singles: <https://www.purelifeministries.org/blog/why-its-not-impossible-to-be-single-and-pure>

Day 4-

READ: [Ephesians 5:22-24; Proverbs 31:10-31](#)

REFLECT:

- Proverbs 31 is one of the best listings in scripture of any kind, and it is stating what it looks like to be a godly wife. For all the women out there, it is really quite frankly intimidating at times. It can almost feel like an impossible list to live up to.
- Nobody, outside of the Trinity, is called to perfection. We often believe that lie, and need to guard our hearts and minds against that lie from the enemy.

PRACTICE:

- Wives, what is the one way these verses say to treat your husband that could use some improvement?"
- Husbands, what is an area that your wife does a good job at? Make it a point to let her know that today and compliment her!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ:

- For Single Parents: <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/raising-a-godly-family-as-a-single-mom>

Day 5-

READ: [Ephesians 6:4; Psalm 103:13; Proverbs 22:6](#)

REFLECT/PRACTICE:

- Parents must proactively and regularly ask their kids what questions they have about faith
  - o In a secular world, where kids are constantly hearing competing worldviews, questions are guaranteed to continually arise. Regular natural conversations normalize faith as an important part of daily living.
- Good parenting pays a bit more attention to motives than just behaviors
  - o It's important for parents to know their kids well enough to understand what's behind their actions and reactions. If we gauge our effectiveness as parents strictly on how well our kids keep the rules, we may miss what's actually going on in their hearts
- Outsourcing our kids spiritual formation.

- This can't be explained enough...the church, youth group or Christian school are not the primary driver for your children's spiritual development. These are support mechanisms. PARENTS are the ones called by God to model, mentor and encourage children toward Christ.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ:

- For Co-parenting: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/single-blended-family-parenting/custody-issues/the-coparenting-relationship>