

Christian Families

Lessons for couples and parents

1. The foundation of Christian marriage
 2. Christian marriage
 3. Christian husbands
 4. Christian wives
5. Christian parents as examples
6. Christian parents as teachers
 7. Christian families

Instruction for the teacher

- The topics to be discussed may be painful for some of the students (e.g., bad memories about their parents' marriage, gone through divorce, badly treated by husband/wife, not having a child). Be aware of this in the words you choose, but never change the Bible truths.
- Be aware that some of the students will start to understand they have sinned (e.g., adultery, failed as husband/wife or parent, pre-marital sex). Don't let them go home just feeling bad about themselves, but tell them to repent and put their trust in Jesus Christ, the Saviour.
- The purpose of the lessons is for the students to understand that:
 - The main purpose of our lives is to obey and please God.
 - Marriage is highly valued by God and therefore needs to be highly valued by us as well.
 - We are responsible for our marriage and children.
- The lessons teach us about Christian marriage, Christian parents and Christian families. Without Christ as our personal Saviour, it is not possible to have a Christian marriage, to be Christian parents or a Christian family. Therefore, emphasize in every lesson the importance of being reconciled with God through Jesus Christ. Only then can we live our lives the way God wants. Only then can we have a happy marriage, be happy parents and have a happy family life. Being reconciled with God is a miraculous gift from God that we don't deserve; it is the most wonderful gift we can ever receive, so speak about it with reverence, humility and gratitude.

But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity – 1 Timothy 4.12b

Lesson 1 The foundation of Christian marriage

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (10 min)

- Welcome everyone.
- Explain that these lessons for couples and parents will teach them about how to be a family the way God wants.
- In every lesson we will read the Bible, because all the lessons are based on what the Bible teaches

Practical information

- The lessons are for both men and women who are/were married and for those who have a child without being married.
- Every lesson will start at o'clock. Don't be late, otherwise we'll run out of time.
- It's important to attend all lessons.
- The students need to bring a Bible to the lessons. We will need them during the lessons.
- In the last lesson we'll write an exam (the teacher will choose if the exam will be written or not). It won't be difficult to pass the exam if you attend all lessons.

Explain the rules

- Children aren't allowed during the lessons (babies allowed if they don't disturb).
- Don't walk in and out during the lesson.
- Be serious and listen to the teacher. Participate freely.

- Ask the students if they have questions.
- Ask God for a blessing for this lesson.

2. Meaning of marriage (20 minutes)

- Ask the participants for the meaning of marriage: what is a marriage?

Answer: Marriage is:

- A relationship in which a man and woman come together and sleep together.
- Man and woman form a unity: they become one, not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually.
- It is a covenant (Malachi 2.14) before God that must not be broken: marriage is forever. Therefore, commitment is important: be faithful, don't run away when problems start. It is not only a covenant before God but also before our government. Therefore, we must marry under the law of the country we live in.
- Ask the participants about the source of marriage: where does the idea come from that people marry?
Answer: From God the Creator Who told the first people Adam and Eve to be one. So their marriage was determined by God.

3. The very first marriage (20 minutes)

- Read together [Genesis 2.18-25](#).
- Write the following questions on the blackboard and let the students answer them in small groups. Or answer the questions together.

Questions

1. Who wanted Adam to be married, according to verse 18?
2. Why did God create a woman?
3. How did God create the woman, Eve?
4. Do you have an idea why God used Adam's rib to create Eve?
5. Did Adam and Eve have a good or bad marriage?
6. What instruction does God give us in verse 24?

- The right answers are as follows:

1. **Who wanted Adam to be married, according to verse 18?**

Answer: God. This means that marriage is God's gift.

2. **Why did God create a woman?**

Answer: Because it was good for Adam to have someone next to him to help him.

3. **How did God create the woman, Eve?**

Answer: He used Adam's rib to create Eve.

4. **Do you have an idea why God used Adam's rib to create Eve?**

Answer: The Bible doesn't give a reason for it, but some people think that God chose a rib because it's close to the heart (love, unity, companionship, equality).

5. **Did Adam and Eve have a good or bad marriage?**

Answer: They had a good marriage. Adam was happy with God's gift. There was no shame, disagreement or fear, but happiness, love and unity.

6. **What instruction does God give us in verse 24?**

Answer: people who want to be married must:

1. Leave his/her father and mother

This means to move out, both physically (to live somewhere else) and emotionally (be independent, solve your own problems). After marriage, the parents can advise but not force anything in any way.

2. Cleave (to marry). This means to become one.

3. Be one flesh (sleep together). This is a proof of unity, the last step in longing for ultimate unity, not the first step!

It is the man who takes initiative for marriage.

4. Marriage now (10 minutes)

- Repeat that Adam and Eve had a good marriage.
- Explain why nowadays people struggle with many challenges in their marriages.

Answer: Adam and Eve disobeyed God: they sinned. Everything changed:

- The good relationship between God and men is broken. We are cursed by God because of our sin. We need Jesus to save us from sin and restore the relationship between God and us.
- The good relationship between people is broken. That is why there are so many problems in marriages. God still wants marriages to be good; we'll learn more about this

in the following lessons. We need Jesus to learn how to live in a good relationship with other people.

- The relationship between people and the rest of creation is broken. We have to deal with death, diseases, dangerous animals etc. We need Jesus to learn how to live in harmony with His creation.
- Explain that reconciliation is only possible through Jesus. That's why it is important to be united with God through Jesus, even in marriage.

4. The purpose of marriage (10 minutes)

- Ask the participants for the purpose of marriage:
 - Unity, help, happiness (Genesis 2.18)
 - To avoid fornication (1 Corinthians 7.2 and 9); to live pure in God's eyes.
 - Multiplication (Genesis 1.28); to have godly children who honour God (Malachi 2.15)
- Ask them about the importance of being married and having children.
- Explain that:
 - Having children is important according to the Bible. However, the world we live in is not perfect anymore because of the first sin, so some people don't receive a child.
 - The purpose of our lives is to know God and obey Him (Deuteronomy 10.12 and 13, Micah 6.8). Being married and having children are secondary. Marriage is temporal (it ends when the husband/wife dies), but a relationship with God never ends.
 - In the Bible we read about people who lived according to God's purpose, but they weren't married or had no children. According to 1 Corinthians 7.8, 9 and 34, it's alright not to be married (and thus not to have a child).
 - Divorce or other 'solutions' are not allowed in this case.

5. Choosing a husband/wife (10 minutes)

- Ask the students what is important to look for in a future husband/wife for yourself or for your children.
Answer: it is important to know each other very well before marriage: e.g., what does he/she like, how does he/she handle pressure and problems (like funerals), what clothes does he/she wear, how does he/she spend the day and money, what role does God play in his/her life, what is his/her background, is this person trustworthy, what are his/her weaknesses, can he/she be a good father/mother for your children and am I willing to submit (for the wife) or to serve her (for the husband)?
- Conclude by saying that marriage is forever, so don't rush into it. Most of the people who rush into marriage face many problems. Remind them that in a Christian marriage, Christ is the Foundation and love, respect and care are most important.

6. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize today's lesson: marriage is God's gift and He needs to be the Foundation.
- Pray.

Lesson 2 Christian marriage

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

2. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome the students.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was discussed last time: marriage is God's gift and He must be the Foundation.
- Introduce today's topic: we'll look at the practical consequences of knowing that marriage is God's gift. Today we'll look at topics that are important for both husbands and wives. In the next lessons we'll look at the different roles of husband and wife.

3. Problems in marriage – case studies (40 minutes)

- Ask the students what problems they have seen or experienced in marriage. Write their answers on the blackboard.
- Tell the students to sit in small groups and assign each group to discuss one of the following case studies.

1. Nelson and Victoria

Nelson and Victoria have been married for 1 month. Victoria isn't happy. Every day, Nelson tells her, 'You are a bad wife because you don't know how to cook good nsima. I wish I married your sister. If you don't improve, I'll divorce you'. Victoria says she tries hard. She is sad that Nelson complains about her.

1. Do you know people who are divorced?
2. What must Victoria do?
3. What does the Bible say about divorce?
4. What does Nelson need to do?

2. Bernard and Zelipa

Bernard and Zelipa have been married for 3 years. They have one child. Bernard loves his wife and tries hard to make her happy. He has found a job and uses the money he earns to help the family survive. But whatever he tries, Zelipa tells bad stories about him to her friends.

1. Do you know people who share their marriage problems with everyone?
2. How do you think Bernard feels about his wife?
3. What does Bernard need to do?
4. What does Zelipa need to do?

3. Cisomo and Rakele

Cisomo loves Rakele. They aren't married, but slept together several times. Cisomo isn't sure if he wants to marry Rakele. One day Rakele finds out that she's pregnant.

1. Do you know people who slept together before they were married?
2. What does the Bible say about sleeping together outside of marriage?

3. What would you advise Cisomo and Rakele to do?

4. Lemekani and Sara

Lemekani and Sara have been married for 3 years. They don't have a child. Lemekani blames Sara for not bearing a child. It causes tension in the house. Every night Lemekani says, 'You must sleep with me this night; I want a child'. Lemekani wants them to use charms to get a child. Sara refuses. Lemekani says he'll leave her and she'll die lonely and without a child.

1. How important is it to have a child?
2. What can be the reasons for not having a child?
3. What would you advise Lemekani and Sara to do?

5. Richard and Edina

Richard and Edina have been married for 5 years. Richard has a job. He works hard to have as much money as possible. He wants to show his neighbours that he is a good, hardworking person. He wants to be rich and buy a car. Therefore, he doesn't want to spend any money on what the family needs, except food and a few clothes. Edina isn't happy about that. She thinks Richard must buy the family everything they need and not be so stingy. Richard answers that she can't say anything about the money, because it is his money so he can do what he wants.

1. Explain why Richard and Edina discuss a lot about money.
2. What does the Bible say about spending money?
3. What would you advise Richard and Edina to do?

6. Danieli and Dorothy

Danieli and Dorothy have 7 children. They live in a village where it is difficult to find a job for Danieli. Therefore, Danieli decides to leave his family and live in Lusaka. He promises to send money to them so that they can survive. Dorothy is happy about the fact that Danieli will be able to provide for the family. But she is not happy that her husband will be far away for a long time. She feels that it will be difficult for the family to have a good family life when the husband and father is far away.

1. Do you know examples of people who don't live together even though they are married?
2. What would you advise Danieli and Dorothy?

7. Amos and Selina

Amos and Selina have been married for 2 years. Selina is seven months pregnant with their first child. Amos wants to sleep with her. But Selina says she can't manage because of her pregnancy and tells him he has to wait for some months till she is fully recovered from delivering the baby. Amos says he can't wait that long. He thinks about finding another lady until Selina is ready to sleep with him again.

1. What would you advise Amos?

- The right answers are as follows:

Nelson and Victoria

1. Do you know people who are divorced?

Answer: Let them answer for themselves.

2. What must Victoria do in this case?

Answer: She must pray to God for help, continue trying her best, ask for advice from wise Christians.

3. What does the Bible say about divorce?

Answer: Read Matthew 19.3-6 for the students. Divorce is only allowed in the case of adultery (Matthew 19.9). For Christians, it is better to forgive and reconcile than to divorce. If people divorce, they cannot remarry until their spouse dies (1 Corinthians 7.11). To the teacher: don't go deep, but if the students ask for more from the Bible about divorce, share God's Word with them from Romans 7.1-3, Mark 10.12 and Luke 16.18.

4. What does Nelson need to do?

Answer: To be patient and teach his wife

Bernard and Zelipa

1. Do you know people who share their marriage problems with everyone?

Answer: Let them answer for themselves.

2. How do you think Bernard feels about his wife?

Answer: He does not feel respected; he is sad and frustrated.

3. What does Bernard need to do?

Answer: To sit together with his wife and explain why he has a problem with his wife talking too much. To ask what he has done wrong so that he can change. To pray together to ask God for forgiveness and help to be strong in their marriage. He cannot send his wife back to her parents (see lesson 1 about leaving parents).

Cisomo and Rakele

1. Do you know people who slept together before they were married?

Answer: Let them answer for themselves.

2. What does the Bible say about sleeping together outside of marriage?

Answer: God only allows a husband and wife to sleep together within marriage (Hebrews 13.4). Everything else is called adultery and forbidden by God (1 Corinthians 6.18). God tells us to be careful even in the way we look at someone (Matthew 5.28). God wants our minds to be pure.

3. What would you advise Cisomo and Rakele?

Answer: Remind the students of lesson 1: leave – cleave – be one flesh. Cisomo and Rakele slept together (step 3), so they've done what God wants to be done in marriage only. They must feel sorry, confess their sin and stop doing it, ask God for forgiveness and start to live the way God wants. Cisomo can be advised to formalize the marriage the proper way.

Lemekani and Sara

1. How important is it to have a child?

Answer: It is one of the purposes of marriage, but not the ultimate purpose of our lives (lesson 1). Our purpose is to obey and glorify God, whether married or unmarried. In marriage the purpose is to live the way God wants, with or without a child.

2. What can be the reasons for not having a child?

Answer: Let them share the ideas that are from within the community. Conclude by saying that a child is God's gift. We don't know why He gives to some and not to others. There can be medical reasons why people don't have a child.

3. What would you advise Lemekani and Sara to do?

Answer: to learn that a child is God's gift (Psalm 127.3). They mustn't do what is forbidden by God (so they shouldn't seek advice from the witch doctor). They must ask God for a child and say, 'Thy will be done'.

Richard and Edina

1. Explain why Richard and Edina discuss a lot about money.

Answer: They don't agree on how to spend money and on who has the power.

2. What does the Bible say about spending money?

Answer: We must spend our money the way God wants, because it is His (James 1.17).

3. What would you advise Richard and Edina?

Answer: To read the Bible to know what God says about money and how to spend it: be content with what you have (Hebrews 13.5) and be generous (Romans 12.13). Richard must not be selfish and proud by wanting to keep the money instead of providing the family with what they need. He must understand that in marriage it is *their* money and not *his* alone.

Danieli and Dorothy

1. Do you know examples of people who don't live together even though they are married?

Answer: Let them answer for themselves.

2. What would you advise Danieli and Dorothy?

Answer: Being separated as a couple brings many problems, so they need to be aware of them. The children will grow up without a father close by, there will be temptations to have a relationship with someone else outside of marriage, etc.

Amos and Selina

1. What would you advise Amos?

Answer: to learn to control himself, ask for advice from mature Christians.

- Ask the students what they must do if they realise they've sinned.

Answer: stop doing sins, confess them to God, depend on Jesus for salvation.

- Ask the students if 'love medicines' can help to solve problems in the marriage and if they can cause someone to love you.

Answer: No, they don't. Instead, the result will be: a secret, a suspicious husband/wife, loss of trust when finding out about it.

4. God's instructions for both husbands and wives – Bible study (40 minutes)

- Read together Ephesians 4.2 and 3 and answer together the following questions:

1. What does this verse teach us on how to communicate?

Answer: We must be kind, humble and not put ourselves first.

2. Is it important to speak to our husband/wife about problems and mistakes or is it better to keep quiet?

Answer: It depends on the kind of problem. If being quiet will disturb the harmony and unity, it is better to speak about it, to forgive one another and reconcile. If it is a small problem or mistake that doesn't disturb unity and harmony, you may choose not to speak about it. If there is a problem, don't point fingers at someone else, but acknowledge that you may have contributed to it.

3. What does this verse teach us about the source of unity?

Answer: It comes from God. That's why God must be the Foundation of marriage.

4. Is it easy to maintain unity in marriage?

Answer: Often it's difficult, because as people we are selfish (sin) instead of thinking of what our husbands/wives think and desire; we only think of ourselves. To be married means to work hard, to learn to listen to our husbands/wives. Remind them that marriage is a covenant before God that requires commitment.

- Read Ecclesiastes 4.12 together and discuss the following question:

5. What does this Bible verse mean?

Answer: People who received Jesus as their personal Saviour have a stronger marriage than those without God. He teaches them to be loving, faithful, humble, etc. as He is.

- Read 1 Corinthians 13.4-7 together and discuss the following question:

6. Read verse 5 again. What does it mean that love doesn't seek her own way?

Answer: To seek what the other person (e.g., a husband/wife) wants. It means self-denial. This is the opposite of lust. This means to serve the other person, not yourself!

- Read John 13.34 together and answer the following question:

7. Why is Jesus our example of love?

Answer: He, as King of the universe, gave Himself to die on a cross to forgive the sins of His people. He denied Himself indeed! When we know we are saved by Him, we will understand and want to do what Jesus does: to love wholeheartedly and faithfully.

- Read Hebrews 13.4 together and answer the following question:

8. What does the Bible say about a physical relationship inside marriage?

Answer: It is good to have a physical relationship (sleep together) within marriage.

- Read 1 Corinthians 7.3-5 together and answer the following questions:

9. What do these verses teach us about the physical relationship in marriage?

Answer: It is the fruit of unity (love, giving yourself). Couples aren't allowed to deprive one another unless they've both agreed to do so. This Bible verse can't be used to force someone to have sex, because by forcing someone to sleep with us, we serve ourselves instead of our husbands/wives (which contradicts with the essence of marriage).

10. What does this verse teach us about agreement in marriage?

Answer: It is very important, because being 'one', means to agree, to be united. When there is no agreement and couples want to deprive one another, they must solve the cause of their disunion.

- Read 2 Corinthians 6.14 together and answer the following questions:

11. Why does God forbid us to marry someone who is not a Christian?

Answer: A Christian cannot be united with someone who is not: e.g. different values, disagreement on the importance of worshipping God, on how to raise children, etc.

12. What does this verse teach us on the importance of choosing a Christian husband/wife?

Answer: It's very important. Don't look at someone's appearance, but at the way someone lives before God.

5. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was learned today: Christian marriage means to serve one another in unity and harmony. By doing so, God is obeyed and served by the married couple.
- Pray.

Lesson 3 Christian husbands

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (10 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Explain that both husband and wife are equal in God's eyes: they are both important and precious in God's eyes. There is, however, a difference in the position He gives them.

2. The role of the husband – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Ask the students what they understand by a Christian husband: what kind of person is he?
Answer: Let them share their ideas. Finish the discussion by saying that most important is what God says about husbands and their roles.
- Read 1 Corinthians 11.3 together and ask the following questions:
 - 1. What does it mean that a man is the head of the house?**
Answer: a man as the head of the house has the responsibility to lead the family in the right direction. It means to serve. Not to dictate, because dictators serve themselves instead of their families.
 - 2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Head of the man?**
Answer: A man is under the authority of God. He cannot do whatever he wants, but must execute God's will over his wife (and children). By doing so, the wife can never be treated as a slave.
- Read Deuteronomy 24.5 together and ask the following question:
 - 3. What was the first responsibility of a husband according to this verse?**
Answer: to cheer up his wife.
- Read 1 Peter 3.7 together and ask the following question:
 - 4. How must husbands treat their wives?**
Answer: They must honour them and not bring shame on them. So a good husband will never treat his wife as inferior.
- Read Ephesians 5.22-33 together and discuss the following questions:
 - 5. What commandment does God give in verse 25?**
Answer: Husbands must love their wives: unity, communion, fellowship!
 - 6. Read verse 25 again. Jesus has given Himself for His people. What does His example mean for husbands?**
Answer: They must not be selfish, but serve their wives.
 - 7. Read verse 29 again. What must husbands do according to this verse?**
Answer: To provide their wives with everything they need and to represent God in the family (in such a way that the family learns about God by looking at the husband/father). That is why husbands need Jesus: without Him they cannot represent

God. To care for their wives like Jesus cares for His people (who are often stubborn, wandering, spiritually lost).

- Conclude by saying that a husband's responsibility is to:
 1. Love his wife. 2. Care for the family. 3. Protect the family.

3. Role of the husband – practical implications (30 minutes)

- Write on the blackboard: **Physical**. Ask the students for ideas on how husbands must provide for the physical needs of their wives (and the rest of the family). Discuss their answers together. Examples: work, buy clothes/soap/school materials, not to squander.
- Write on the blackboard: **Decision making**. Ask the students for ideas on how husbands as heads of the houses must make decisions. Discuss their answers together. Examples: he must know the needs of his wife, ask for her opinion, make sure the decisions serve the wife and children and not the husband in the first place. In case of a dispute: the wife must submit to her husband, and a good husband will always try to make his wife happy.
- Write on the blackboard: **Spiritual life**. Ask the students for ideas on how husbands must guide their wives and children spiritually (don't go too deep as it will be discussed in lesson 6). Discuss their answers together. Examples: be serious with the Bible, take the family to church, be a good example.
- Write on the blackboard: **Culture**. Ask the students for ideas on how husbands must guide and serve their wives and children in cultural matters (don't go too deep as it will be discussed in lesson 5 as well). Discuss their answers together. Examples: awareness and responsibility for what boys and girls are taught and by whom (hut ceremonies, role of grandparents), cleansing of widows/widowers, rituals after child birth.

4. Case studies (30 minutes)

- Split the group into smaller groups and give every group one case study to discuss. Or discuss all case studies together.

1. Dalitso

Dalitso married Felicia last year. He is not sure on how to be a good husband, because his father was not a good example to the family. His friends tell him that he is the boss of the family, which means that his wife must serve and please him in whatever he demands. When he said that he wanted to do everything to make his wife happy, his friends laughed at him. Dalitso is tired of thinking about it. He decides just to drink beer and have fun.

1. Is Dalitso a good husband? Why (not)?
2. What must Dalitso do?
3. What can Felicia do to help her husband do better?

2. Albert

Albert is 27 years old. He married Grace and they have three children. Every day Albert goes to Petauke to do business. Grace doesn't know what business he does; all she knows is that he fails to provide the family with what they need. After some time, a friend tells Grace that Albert is often just moving around and playing draft in the boma. When she asks him about it, he says, 'It is important to meet people and make friends. They say they'll help me. So we play games to learn to know each other better. Our future is bright'.

1. Is Albert a good husband? Why (not)?
2. What must Albert do?
3. What can Grace do to help her husband do better?

3. Masauso

Masauso married Mercy. They have 7 boys. Masauso and Mercy often quarrel about the way they raise their children. Masauso always says, 'I am a man. I know what boys need. You don't know because you are a woman. I want my boys to be like me, so they must do everything I say and you must be quiet'. One day Masauso gives Paulo, their eldest son, a phone. Paulo is not serious with school anymore. Mercy wants Paulo to give her the phone so she can keep it for him, but her husband Masauso says that it's not her business.

1. Is Masauso a good husband? Why (not)?
2. What must Masauso do?
3. What can Mercy do to help her husband do better?

4. Emmanuel

Emmanuel married Zenia. They have 2 children. Emmanuel failed to find a job. Zenia works as a cook in a restaurant. Emmanuel feels he has failed to be a good husband and envies her. Zenia doesn't see the problem, shares the money with her husband and isn't proud. One day Emmanuel meets a woman who gives him a lot of attention. Emmanuel feels very good about the way she treats him. He starts a relationship with her in secret.

1. Is Emmanuel a good husband? Why (not)?
2. What must Emmanuel do?
3. What can Zenia do to help her husband do better?

5. Eneas

Eneas married Gertrud 30 years ago. They have 4 children. Eneas says, 'I love my wife. All I want is to make her happy. I do whatever I can to care for her and my children. When I notice that my wife isn't happy, I try to find out if I have done wrong and I ask her for forgiveness. Whenever we have an argument, we speak together. I don't beat her. I know that God has forgiven me all my sins, so I want to be merciful to my wife as God is merciful to me. Sometimes I forbid my children to do something that has a bad influence on them, for example bad music. As a family, we want to obey God alone. We do family worship every evening, because I want the others to know Jesus as their personal Saviour as well. I feel responsible that they will be familiar with the Bible.'

1. Is Eneas a good husband? Why (not)?
2. What can Gertrud do to help her husband do better?

- The right answers are as follows:

Dalitso**1. Is Dalitso a good husband? Why (not)?**

Answer: Dalitso wants to be a good husband, but he is not. He feared to take responsibility because he felt he didn't know how to be a good husband. And he feared what his friends might say. In order to find a solution, he tried to forget about it and drink beer, which is never a solution.

2. What must Dalitso do?

Answer: Be strong, read the Bible and speak with Christians about this topic. Above all, he must love God. Knowing God will increase the desire to please Him and try to do what He wants him to do in serving his wife.

3. What can Felicia do to help her husband do better?

Answer: To show that she trusts him by encouraging him to live the way God wants: as a responsible head of the house.

Albert

1. Is Albert a good husband? Why (not)?

Answer: He is not. He doesn't provide the family with what they need. He doesn't care for the family. In fact, he doesn't take his role as provider serious, which means he is lazy.

2. What must Albert do?

Answer: Be strong, find ways to make money (farming, piece work, business) instead of just playing around. Ask God for help to do what is right.

3. What can Grace do to help her husband do better?

Answer: Encourage Albert to take his duty serious. Help him to find a job or piecework.

Masauso

1. Is Masauso a good husband?

Answer: He is not. He didn't want to listen to his wife's opinion and was selfish. He was too proud to listen. He didn't protect his family from bad influences (the phone).

2. What must Masauso do?

Answer: He must understand that his duty is to serve the family, not himself, and that he is responsible to protect his family.

3. What can Mercy do to help her husband do better?

Answer: Show her husband that she loves and respects him. To show that there is forgiveness when a mistake is made. Not to mock him or gossip.

Emmanuel

1. Is Emmanuel a good husband? Why (not)?

Answer: He tried to be a good husband. He didn't fail when he couldn't find a job, but he failed to be a good husband when he started to have a secret relationship.

2. What must Emmanuel do?

Answer: Repent from his sin, share his feelings of failure with his wife, and reunite with her (if she wants, she can divorce him because of his adulterous behaviour). Emmanuel has to understand that God gave him his wife to help and assist him.

3. What can Zenia do to help her husband do better?

Answer: Explain to him that not being able to find a job doesn't mean that he has failed, because he really tried. By doing so, she respects him and Emmanuel will feel better. They must pray together that God will help them. Zenia must help Emmanuel to find piece work or to do business.

Eneas

1. Is Eneas a good husband? Why (not)?

Answer: He is. He loves his wife, protects the family, cares for them and is an example to them on how to serve God.

2. What can Gertrud do to help her husband do better?

Answer: Help and support him in serving the family by submitting herself to him.

5. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize today's lesson.
- Emphasize that a husband's responsibility is to serve God by loving his wife, and by protecting and caring for the family.
- Pray.

Lesson 4 A Christian wife

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (10 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in the previous lessons: marriage is God's gift, a husband's responsibility is to glorify God through serving his wife and children.

2. The role of the wife – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Ask the students what the role of the wife is in marriage. What kind of person does she need to be and what does she need to do?
- Read Ephesians 5.22 together and ask the students the following question:
 1. **What does God command wives?**
Answer: to submit to their husbands; to obey and respect with a gentle and quiet spirit. In all circumstances, unless the husbands want them to sin. To submit to their husbands as they submit to God, because their husbands are given to be their heads.
- Read Titus 2.3-5 together and answer the following questions:
 2. **What is the duty of older women?**
Answer: To teach what is right and be good examples for young women (verses 4 and 5).
 3. **What is the duty of young women?**
Everything written in verses 4 and 5. Discuss together the meaning of each of these virtues in daily life. Tell them that we can't do it in our own power, but we need God.
- Read Proverbs 31.10-31 together. Tell the students to sit in small groups and discuss the following questions together which you write on the blackboard. Or discuss together.

Questions

4. Read verse 12 again. What must a wife do?
5. What do these Bible verses teach us about lazy wives?
6. In which ways do good wives serve their husbands and families?
7. Read verse 20 again. What do good wives besides serving their husbands and families?
8. Read verse 23 again. How can it be seen if a husband has a good wife?
9. Can a wife help her husband earn money?
10. What does the Bible teach us in Proverbs 31.30 about the importance of appearance?

- The right answers are as follows.
 4. **Read verse 12 again. What must a wife do?**
Answer: She must do good, always.

5. What do these Bible verses teach us about lazy wives?

Answer: They are not living the way God wants them to. Wives must be diligent to serve their husbands and families.

6. In which ways do good wives serve their husbands and families?

Answer: By working hard, preparing food, taking her work serious, helping to earn money, being kind, looking after the house.

7. Read verse 20 again. What do good wives do besides serving their husbands and families?

Answer: they reach out to anyone in need.

8. Read verse 23 again. How can it be seen if a husband has a good wife?

Answer: A good wife supports her husband's success (in the Old Testament, the gate of a town was a place where people met, did business and where the court was, so the important and successful people were found at the gates).

9. Can a wife help her husband earn money?

Answer: Yes, she can (verse 24)

10. What does the Bible teach us in Proverbs 31.30 about the importance of appearance?

Answer: The character and heart are more important; a wife who fears God. Such a wife will try her best to serve God by obeying her husband and serving her family.

3. The role of the wife – practical implications (15 minutes)

- A wife stands beside her husband. She has equal value. She supports, strengthens and comforts her husband in God's calling for him: to serve God and the family.
- The wife's first priority is to love God, then her husband, then her children, then the rest of the world (family, neighbours) (see Titus 2.4). Her first responsibility is at home. It is a very important calling: by doing so, wives serve God!
- A wife can fear that her husband makes mistakes, which is indeed possible. This makes it difficult for her to obey. She needs to understand that obeying is her calling. She needs to learn to be faithful and trust her husband. Remember: being married means to work hard.

4. Case studies (30 minutes)

- Tell the students to sit in small groups and give every group one case study to discuss. Or read the case studies for them and discuss together.

Case studies**1. Josines**

Josines is married to Edson. Edson tries to serve his family the best he can. When he finds out he has made a mistake, he asks for forgiveness and tries to do better. But Josines likes to share his mistakes with her friends when they go to fetch water. She struggles to forgive and to trust that he will do better in the future.

1. Is Josines a good wife?
2. What can Josines do better?
3. What can Edson do to help his wife do better?

2. Anastazia

Anastazia is 30 years old. She is married to Milan and they have 2 young children. Anastazia loves to care for people who are in need. In church she is involved in a group that cares for

the elderly. The church elders are very grateful for the work she does. However, she is often home very late and she fails to wash the clothes properly. Milan isn't happy to see that chores aren't done when he comes home after doing piece work. He decides to go to the church leaders for advice.

1. Is Anastazia a good wife?
2. What can Anastazia do better?
3. What can Milan do to help Anastazia do better?

3. Veronica

Veronica is married to Acklas. They have 5 children. Veronica finds it difficult to make her husband happy. It seems that he always finds something to fight about. She has tried to find out what the problem is, but Acklas doesn't give any reason. Sometimes he beats her. Veronica feels lonely and fears that one day Acklas may hurt the children. She doesn't know what to do. She thinks that it might be better to find another husband.

1. Is Veronica a good wife?
2. What would you advise Acklas?
3. What would you advise Veronica to do?

4. Catherine

Catherine is married to Sekelani. They don't have children although they've been married for many years. Catherine loves Sekelani, but she isn't happy with the work around the house. She says she doesn't like to do the dishes and to wash clothes. She wants a 'real job', like her friend who works at a filling station. Catherine says 'The work at home isn't important. I want to be an important person. I'm just washing, cleaning and cooking every day, that's all.'

1. Is Catherine a good wife?
2. What can Catherine do better?
3. What can Sekelani do to help Catherine do better?

5. Mulumbenji

Mulumbenji is an old lady of 70 years. She tells, 'When I was young, I was married to Tyson. We were happy together. We wanted each other to be the happiest person in the world. Tyson was good to me. I felt very sad when he died. I loved to care for him: to cook, to wash his clothes and to make sure the house looked good and clean. He didn't have a job, but he did his best to provide us with what we needed. Tyson was kind to our children. We raised them together. I now love to teach young women how to live with their husbands according to the Bible. I help them know what to do when cultural traditions contradict with the Bible. That is what I learned from my husband. I'll never forget him'.

1. Is Mulumbenji a good wife, mother and grandmother?
2. How must the family and village respond to Mulumbenji's teachings?

- After 10 minutes, discuss together the answers. The right answers are as follows.

Josines

1. Is Josines a good wife?

Answer: She is good in looking after the house, but she doesn't live with her husband in a good way.

2. What can Josines do better?

Answer: To trust her husband, to encourage and help him to do better, to give him respect. To stop speaking to her friends about her husband's mistakes. To be willing to forgive.

3. What can Edson do to help Josines do better?

Answer: Continue showing his love and care for her. Pray together. Read the Bible together about what God wants wives to do (don't use the Bible to punish or offend your wife, but humbly teach her to do better).

Anastazia

1. Is Anastazia a good wife?

Answer: She is good in caring for people in need, but not in caring for her husband and children.

2. What can Anastazia do better?

Answer: To learn that her first responsibility is at home: her husband and children.

3. What can Milan do to help Anastazia do better?

Answer: Read the Bible together about what God wants wives to do (don't use the Bible to punish or shame your wife, humbly teach her to do better). Pray together. Go with her to the church leaders again to explain the problem and to find a solution together.

Veronica

1. Is Veronica a good wife?

Answer: Yes, she wants to please her husband and care for her children. But also no, because she wants to end the marriage.

2. What would you advise Acklas?

Answer: To stop beating his wife. To invest time in his wife, to learn how she feels and what she needs. To learn to serve his wife.

3. What would you advise Veronica to do?

Answer: Try to find out what makes her husband angry, be faithful, pray, speak with people in her family who can advise and help her. If her husband continues his violence and it is dangerous to be together, she can ask the police to get involved.

Catherine

1. Is Catherine a good wife?

Answer: The good part is that she loves her husband. The bad part is that she doesn't like her responsibilities as wife.

2. What can Catherine do better?

Answer: She must understand that doing chores is a way to please God because it serves the husband. It is an important job, like any other job or task we do to please God. We must honour and thank God in everything we do (Colossians 3.17, 1 Corinthians 10.31).

3. What can Sekelani do to help Catherine do better?

Answer: Tell and show her how important she and her work at home are to him, to help her find a way in which she can be happy. For example, by helping other people in the village, a task in church or a job she can manage in addition to serving her husband at home.

Mulumbenji**1. Is Mulumbenji a good wife, mother and grandmother?**

Answer: She is. She understands the importance of being a Christian wife, mother and grandmother. She knows how to serve and to teach the Bible to the next generation.

2. How must the family and village respond to Mulumbenji's teachings?

Answer: Respect her and listen to her, especially because her teachings are based on the Bible, our only Guide!

5. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize today's lesson.
- Emphasize that a wife's responsibility is to support her husband in his calling to serve the family.
- Pray.

Lesson 5 Christian parents as examples

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome the students.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in the previous lessons: marriage means unity, a husband must serve his family by representing God. A wife must support her husband in his responsibility to serve the family.

2. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Tell the students to think about their own parents (or others who raised them, or adults in the community) and ask them in which ways they have been either good or bad examples.
- Before children go to school, they have already learned a lot. Not only to speak, eat and obey, but also how to live together: roles in the family, the difference between good and bad, rituals, how to communicate, etc.
- Conclude by saying that parents are examples in their families and communities, whether they want to be or not. That is a big responsibility!

3. Game (15 minutes)

- Read the following statements to the students one by one. If they agree, they must raise their hands. If they don't agree, they must not raise their hands. Allow them to explain their answers.

1. The purpose of having children is so that they can care for us when we are old.

Answer: Not true. They can help us and our families, but that's not their purpose: they have to learn obey, serve and glorify God who is the Owner of their lives.

2. Our children aren't ours, but God's.

Answer: True (Psalm 127.3, Isaiah 8.18). Therefore, parents must raise them the way God wants. Gifts are often highly valued: do the same with your children!

3. In the Bible, children are important.

Answer: True. Jesus used children as examples to teach adults (e.g., Matthew 18.5, Acts 2.39). Children have the same value as adults, but a different position.

4. All children need is food and clothes.

Answer: Not true. They need love, care and help. They need to be taught on how to obey God and their parents.

5. Children learn more from looking at our behaviour than listening to our words.

Answer: True. Children copy us. They know if our behaviour differs from what we teach.

6. There is no difference between a Christian parent and a non-Christian parent

Answer: Not true. The foundation of Christian upbringing is Christ. Christian parents raise their children with the desire to please God. The Bible is their guide. If there is no difference, there is something wrong with the way Christian parents raise their children.

4. Caring for the children given by God (15 minutes)

- Ask the students what children need to grow up. Write their answers on the blackboard.
Answer: First of all, children need a stable home where people live the way God wants. They need to be taught how to serve God by living a responsible life in society. What they need to learn differs per age, but in general children need help and teaching:
 - Physical: food and drinks, safety, clothes, shelter, protection, sleep, medication.
 - Emotional: learn how to deal with their emotions (e.g., anger, fear, happiness, sadness) and those of other people. They must learn to love and express it correctly.
 - Social: learn to understand the world they live in (culture), how to deal with money, how to relate to other people (making friends, solving problems, etc.) and everything else to become adults who fit in the society.
 - Spiritual: to know God through Jesus Christ, how to live their lives to God's glory and to be equipped to teach their own children. (lesson 7)

5. The extended family (15 minutes)

- Ask the students who is responsible to provide for a child's physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs.
Answer: the biological parents are the ones who have the first responsibility, because God has given them their child. Parents have the authority to teach their children.
- Discuss together the role of the extended family and situations in which children may be raised by others than their biological parents.
Answer: Emphasize that the biological parents have the first responsibility for their children. The extended family has no direct authority, but can help and give advice. There may be situations in which parents struggle to raise their children; situations in which the physical, emotional, social and spiritual development of children are at stake. In those situations, other family members can help by taking care of the child. If we allow our children to be raised at another family's home, we need to be aware of the following:
 - We need to be careful to whom we entrust our children. If our children are raised by others, those people are the ones who are going to teach and shape them.
 - The main purpose of a child is not to be our servants (although they can help us).
 - Most children will always long for their biological parents. It can cause conflict within the child and problems in the relationship between them and the caregivers.

6. Bible study (30 minutes)

- Tell the students to discuss the following questions (to be written on the blackboard) in small groups.

Questions

Ephesians 4.25-32

1. Read verse 25 again. What must parents do according to this verse?
2. Are we allowed to be angry?
3. Do you know parents who speak evil (verse 31)?
4. Read verse 32. What does it mean to be kind?

1 Thessalonians 5.15

5. What do we need to do according to this verse?

6. What does it mean to follow what is good?
7. What does this verse teach parents?

James 1.5

7. What does this verse tell parents who struggle to raise their children?
8. According to this verse, can we give up on our children?

- Discuss the answers together. The right answers are as follows:

Ephesians 4.25-32

1. Read verse 25 again. What must parents do according to this verse?

Answer: They must always speak the truth.

2. Are we allowed to be angry?

Answer: Yes, but in a good way (with self-control) and we must solve the problem before the day ends. More about discipline will be discussed in lesson 6.

3. Do you know parents who speak evil (verse 31)?

Answer: Let them answer for themselves. Possible answers: calling children bad names, giving bad advice, forcing children to do what is bad and forbidden by God.

4. Read verse 32. What does it mean to be kind?

Answer: It means to have a loving heart and humble behaviour. To forgive one another and live in harmony.

1 Thessalonians 5.15

5. What do we need to do according to this verse?

Answer: We need to do what is good.

6. What does it mean to follow what is good?

Answer: To do what is right in God's eyes (therefore: know your Bible or you'll fail): to be kind, willing to forgive, longing for harmony, be Godly (so we need to be reconciled with God through Jesus in order to be able to reflect who God is)

7. What does this verse teach parents?

Answer: be merciful, kind and willing to forgive. If you want your children to do good, be their good example.

James 1.5

8. What does this verse tell parents who struggle to raise their children?

Answer: To ask God for His help and intervention.

9. According to this verse, can we give up on our children?

Answer: No, we must keep trying, until they reach maturity. But even then, we can continue praying for them. We must show them Christ-like love: love them as Christ loves His children.

7. Case studies (15 minutes)

- Read the following case studies to the students and discuss together the questions.

1. Charles and Matilda

Charles and Matilda have two children. One is 7 years old, the other one 3. They find it difficult to raise their children because the children often disobey. Charles says, 'When I tell them to bring something to their grandmother, they will refuse. But if I say grandmother will give them sweets, they go. So that's what I do. When they reach

grandmother's house they'll find no sweets, but that's fine as long as they do what I say.'

What would you say to Charles and Matilda?

Answer: They must speak the truth. It is difficult indeed that children disobey. But God wants us to speak the truth, always. Ask God for wisdom on how to do it. Teach your children, explain simply and thoroughly what they need to do. Be strong and consistent in your dealing with them.

2. Miriam

Miriam is a single mother. She has 5 children. She struggles to raise them. She has no money to send them to school and often there's not enough food for them all. Miriam doesn't know what to do. One day her niece from Lusaka calls her. She doesn't know her very well, but they have a nice chat. At the end Miriam shares that she is unable to feed her children. Her niece says that she needs some help around the house and is willing to care for one of Miriam's daughters.

According to you, what will Miriam think of this offer? What would you do if you were Miriam?

Answer: Let the students share their answers. Conclude by saying that Miriam will always be responsible for her child, even if the child stays with someone else.

What Miriam needs to do: pray for wisdom (remember: she has the first responsibility for her child), find out more about her niece, ask her niece for money so that she can continue care for her child with her niece's money.

8. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today: parents are examples for their children and the children in their community. That is a big responsibility. Be the example God wants you to be.
- Pray.

Lesson 6 Christian parents as teachers

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Pray
- Summarize what was taught in the previous lessons: Marriage means unity. A husband must serve his family by representing God. A wife must support her husband in his calling to serve the family. Parents have the responsibility for their children. They teach them by being good examples. Today we'll look at another way of teaching: what we say and how we speak to them.

2. The purpose of teaching children – case study (10 minutes)

- Read the following case study for the students and ask them why it is important to teach children.

Dorothy is 40 years old. She says, 'My mother wasn't married when she got pregnant, so I have never known my father. My mother died when I was born. My whole life I lived at my aunt's house. But she didn't care for me. She gave me food and clothes and that was all. I wasn't part of their family and they ignored me. I just did what I wanted to do. In school I didn't have friends because I wasn't a kind person and I stole. My aunt didn't teach me. So when I grew up, I didn't know how to cook. I never married because people say that I am not a good person.'

Answer: It is important to teach children because:

1. God tells us to do so. Children have a sinful heart, just like adults. Their nature is to do wrong. Therefore, they need to be taught what is right to do.
2. Without teaching they can't fit in society and will be unsuccessful outsiders.

3. What and how to teach children – Bible study (30 minutes)

- Read Proverbs 22.6 together and answer the following question:

1. Why does a child need to be taught while it is still young?

Answer: because children learn fast when they are young and it will prevent them from making mistakes in their lives.

- Read Colossians 3.20, Ephesians 6.2 and Proverbs 6.20 together and answer the following question:

2. What must parents teach their children according to these verses?

Answer: to be obedient.

- Read Hebrews 12.10 and 11, Ephesians 6.4 and Colossians 3.21 together and answer the following questions:

3. What do these verses teach us about how to discipline a child?

Answer: it must be done out of love, to teach what is right, and to correct a child's behaviour (not to make them feel scared or angry or to show who is the strongest), to make a child understand that it has done wrong and needs to be forgiven by God. Be aware that to discipline is more than just to beat: it means to teach, to correct a child, to guide it.

4. What are good ways to discipline a child?

Answer, for example:

- Teach from the Bible why certain behaviour is not allowed and what the result will be of such behaviour.
 - Don't harm a child physically (lack of food, bruises) or emotionally (mind your words and voice), but teach him/her. Some forms of punishment have the opposite effect of what you want (e.g., beating a child can make them more rebellious against you). You don't want children to be scared of you, but to be close with them in order to reach their hearts.
 - Don't discipline out of anger. Pray before disciplining. If you've lost your self-control, ask for forgiveness and reconcile.
 - Treat all your children the same. Do not punish those who are innocent.
 - After disciplining, reconcile, be patient (God is patient with us--show His mercy and love!)
- Read Psalm 119.9 together and answer the following question:
- 5. What are Christian parents supposed to do?**
- Answer: To teach their children about God. They must teach the Bible.
- 6. Why must children be taught, according to Psalm 119.9?**
- Answer: Because without teaching they can't live a pure life.
- Read Philippians 4.8 and answer the following question:
- 7. What does this verse teach us about what to teach our children?**
- Answer: We must be aware of what we teach and our teachings must not contradict with the Bible.

4. Practical implications - culture (20 minutes)

- Explain that everything we do and teach must be according to God's will. Every culture has aspects that contradict with the Bible.
- Ask the students for cultural teachings that contradict with the Bible.
Answer: let them share their ideas and experiences. If they fail to do so, ask them for rituals for newborn babies, widows/widowers, young girls, or those who prepare for marriage. Ask them what is done during sicknesses and at funerals. The Bible must be our guide: depend on God alone. There is no room for spirits and rituals to please them, no nakedness, etc.
God says, 'Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things'

(Philippians 4.8). Nothing else. Be strong and know that God helps those who want to do His will!

5. Case studies (30 minutes)

- Split the group into 3 groups and tell every group to discuss one of the following case studies.

1. Aliyoni and Precious

Aliyoni and Precious have 4 daughters and 1 son. Their oldest daughter is Lauzi. She is 14 years old. Her friends have already been in the hut. Thus far, Precious has refused. She isn't sure if she wants that for her daughter. It causes a problem within the family because the aunt says that nobody will marry Lauzi if she isn't taught properly.

Question: What would you say to Aliyoni and Precious?

2. Silvano and Mailesi

Silvano and Mailesi have 6 children. They complain about them. They say, 'Our children don't obey us. We have to punish them almost every day. We beat them and don't give them food. But they don't change. Instead, it seems that they hate us and just continue doing what they want.

Question: What would you say to Silvano and Mailesi?

3. Avelina

Avelina's husband died last year. She is now a widow and mother of 4 children. Avelina says, 'Since the time my husband died, I feel very lonely and sad. I don't have the strength to raise my children. My husband was the one who taught them when they had done wrong. I don't know how to do it, so I just let them do what they want.

Question: What would you say to Avelina?

- After 10 minutes, let the groups share their answers with the group.

1. Aliyoni and Precious

Answer: Remember that we must do what pleases God. Aliyoni and Precious are responsible for what their daughter is taught. God wants us to live pure and holy before Him. Let them discuss if the initiation rites and instructions for boys fit with that. Answer: no! Remind them of what kind of husband and wife God wants His people to be (previous lessons). Very often that is not what is taught during cultural events. The best Aliyoni and Precious could do is to teach their own daughter according to the Bible.

2. Silvano and Mailesi

Answer: Be aware of the way you teach the children. It seems that they aren't doing it in the right way. Instead of just punishing, they must tell them what to do and be good examples. There must also be reconciliation after punishment, otherwise the children will be scared and run away.

3. Avelina

Answer: The children need her. She can honour her husband by taking care of them. She needs to be strong and can ask family, neighbours or church members for help on how to do it. If she doesn't teach her children, she will have more problems in the future.

6. Finish (5 minutes)

- Summarize what was taught today: Children need to be taught according to the Bible only. Parents are responsible to teach what is right in God's eyes and for guiding their children in the right direction.
- Pray.

Lesson 7 Christian families

Materials

- Bible
- Blackboard
- Chalk

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone.
- Pray.
- Summarize what was taught in the previous lessons.

2. Christianity at home – Bible study (40 minutes)

- Ask the students what it means to be a Christian family. What does it look like?
Answer: do the following Bible study together to find the answer.
- Read Acts 18.1-3 together and answer the following questions:
 - 1. Who did Paul find in Corinth?**
Answer: Aquilla and his wife Priscilla.
 - 2. How do we know that this family was a Christian family?**
Answer: They received Paul, God's servant, and were hospitable.
 - 3. What do we learn from Aquilla and Priscilla with regards to work?**
Answer: The family works together.
- Read Deuteronomy 6.4-8 and 20-25 together and answer the following questions:
 - 4. Who told us to teach our children?**
Answer: God.
 - 5. What must we teach our children?**
Answer: Who God is and what He has done.
 - 6. Where must we teach our children?**
Answer: Everywhere.
- Read Psalms 78.1-8 together and answer the following questions:
 - 7. What is the purpose of teaching children about God?**
Answer: That they'll put their hope in God and teach their own children (verses 6 and 7).
 - 8. Why is it important for children to put their hope in God?**
Answer: Because only God through Jesus can save us from our sin and bring us back into a good relationship with Him. Only through Jesus can we live a good life.
 - 9. What is the main teaching of the Bible that must be taught?**
Answer: To repent (feel sorry and stop) from sin and believe (depend on Him for salvation) in Jesus as the only Saviour. Explain John 3.16 briefly:
 - Since the time Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the world is a sinful world. People are sinful people, separated from God. God didn't change and is merciful: He still loves the world.
 - God sent his Son Jesus Christ to earth to die on a cross to forgive sins so that sinners can be reconciled with God.

- Everyone who depends on Jesus alone for salvation, is saved. Salvation is God's gift of grace. It is an amazing, extraordinary gift! God wants people to repent (feel sorry, stop doing sin, ask God for forgiveness) and put their hope in Him alone.
 - God's people have peace with Him and will forever be with Him in Heaven. Everyone else has no peace and will be in Hell forever.
- Read Matthew 19.13-15 together and answer the following question:
10. How can parents bring their children to Jesus?
 Answer: Through prayer and by teaching them about Jesus and His salvation.
- Read Joshua 24.15 together and answer the following questions:
11. What did Joshua and his family say to those who worshipped other gods?
 Answer: Whatever happened, he and his family would worship and obey the true God.
12. How can we be strong in refusing everything that God has forbidden?
 Answer: We need to be rooted in God. God needs to be the Head of our family. Be strong, read the Bible to know how Biblical people lived and ask God for His help.

3. Christian family life (20 minutes)

- Draw a big tree on the blackboard.
- Ask the students what the family life of a Christian family looks like. What do they do? How do they behave? Write their answers in the tree.
 Answer: e.g., love, fellowship, forgiveness, help, teaching, respect, any form of family worship.
- A Christian family is like the tree producing good fruits to enjoy for the family members (especially children) and others: a relationship with God through Jesus, harmony, wisdom etc. A Christian family is a light (joy and happiness) in the darkness (problems because of sin). They help each other and the community to improve their relationships with God and others.
- Ask the students how a Christian family shows their unity and love for God and each other.
 Answer:
 - Family worship, e.g., pray together, pray for one another, do Bible study together or share a story from the Bible, sing, memorize Bible verses, apply the Bible to daily life. To lead the family worship is the responsibility of the head of the house.
 - Go to church together: church is also for children, help them to be quiet and listen! Discuss what was preached. Make sure everyone understood it.
 - Spend time together. For example, eat together and work together.
 - Make decisions together. Listen to each other, value each other's opinions. In case a husband and wife can't agree, the wife has to submit.
 - Help others, especially those in need.
- Conclude by saying that even in a Christian family, mistakes are being made, because we all sin. A Christian family is a family that is connected to Christ and wants to please Him. Don't try to live a Christian life without Christ; that's impossible!

4. Exam – optional (30 minutes)

- Writing the exam is optional. If you want them to write the exam, photocopy the exam in advance as it is on the last page of this book. Otherwise, read the questions for them or write them on the blackboard.

- Let the students write the exam.
- Mark the exams. The right answers are as follows:

1A	2C	3A	4B	5C	6A	7C	8A	9A	10B
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5. Finish (5 minutes)

- Thank the students for joining the lessons.
- Encourage the students to put into practice what they've learned. Never try to do it in your own power, but ask God for His help to live according to His will. He is merciful. Be strong!
- Pray.

Exam Christian Families

Name:.....

1. What is true?

- a. Marriage is God's gift and God must be its Foundation.
- b. The purpose of our lives is to marry.

2. Why are there so many challenges in marriage?

- a. Because people listen to bad advice
- b. Because of Satan
- c. Because Adam and Eve sinned. All relationships are now broken and we are sinful

3. What is a Christian marriage?

- a. A husband and wife that serve God and one another in unity and harmony
- b. A husband and wife that pray before eating food
- c. A husband and wife that ask a blessing from a pastor when getting married

4. What does a good husband do, according to the Bible?

- a. A good husband treats his wife as inferior, because he is the head of the house
- b. A good husband loves his wife and protects and cares for the family
- c. A good husband only thinks of himself and is lazy.

5. What does a good wife do, according to the Bible?

- a. A good wife obeys her husband always, even if he tells her to sin
- b. A good wife can have a secret relationship with another man
- c. A good wife helps her husband to serve the family

6. What is true?

- a. Children learn more from looking at our behaviour than listening to our words
- b. Children are not important in God's eyes
- c. The purpose of having children is that they can care for us when we are old

7. What is not true?

- a. God tells us to teach our children to obey and praise Him
- b. Without being taught, children can't fit into society
- c. It is good to teach our children cultural teachings that contradict with the Bible

8. What is important when disciplining a child?

- a. To explain, to correct bad behaviour and teach what is right to do
- b. To beat as hard as you can
- c. To humiliate and make a child scared

9. What is important in a Christian family?

- a. To do family worship, to spend time together, to love, to help others
- b. To work hard
- c. To send the children to school

10. What is the main teaching of the Bible that must be taught to children?

- a. If we obey God, we will be rich
- b. We as sinful people must to be reconciled with God through Jesus the Saviour.
- c. Everyone who prays and goes to church will go to Heaven

11. What are two things you've learned about Christian marriage and Christian families?

- 1.
- 2.