

At-home Bible Study: Family Matters

“The family” isn’t something that came about by accident. God designed the family structure, and he designed it to be a blessing for everyone in it. Yet sin so often ruins God’s good blessings. How can your family be what God wants it to be?

**Today: See God’s blessing in God’s design
for marriage and children!**

Read  **Matthew 19:1-9.**

Underline the phrase “for any and every reason.” In the margin write, “The Pharisees wanted to know if ‘no fault’ divorces were biblical.”

In verse 7 the Pharisees say that “Moses commanded” divorce. In verse 8 Jesus corrects them: “Moses permitted” divorce because “your hearts were hard.” Look up  Zechariah 7:12. What exactly is a “hardness of heart”?

Jesus does not define “marital unfaithfulness” in this portion of Scripture. Look up the following passages and tell us what they add to our understanding of marital unfaithfulness.

 Hebrews 13:4 —

 1 Corinthians 7:15 —

 Malachi 2:16a —

A certificate of divorce is a legal document recognizing the end of a marriage arrangement. This legal document is often what results from God’s command being broken: what God joined together in marriage is no longer joined. How does our society view divorce?

Read  Ephesians 1:3-13. What does God say to those who have sinned against his design for marriage?

Read  **Psalm 127:1-5.**

Take note: None of our efforts will prosper without the LORD's blessing!

Do you know any families that prosper ("build a house") and avoid danger ("stand guard") even though they have no relationship with the LORD? How long will that prosperity last? How long will the members of that family avoid danger?

In  1 Timothy 5:8 Paul writes, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." In the immediate context Paul is referring to caring for elderly parents or grandparents. In light of our lesson for today, what is another way a person could fail to "provide for" his family?

What is the difference between a "reward" and a "heritage"? In what way do children serve as both things?

"Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." Put this statement together with the first part of the psalm, which we said demonstrates the importance of doing a job with the LORD. Why does a Christian feel that having children is a blessing?

Does our society understand that children are a blessing? Point to examples from society to support your answer.

In  Romans 10:17 Paul writes, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

Does God make it the parents' responsibility to create faith in the hearts of their children?

What is the only thing parents can do to provide spiritually for their children?

How can you reflect God's design for marriage and children in your family relationship this week? List some very specific ways.