

A bride and groom are sitting on the stone steps of a classical building with two prominent white columns. The bride is wearing a white wedding dress and veil, holding a bouquet of white and purple flowers. The groom is wearing a dark suit and a purple tie. They are both smiling at the camera. The background shows trees with autumn foliage and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**YOUTH SABBATH
SCHOOL LESSONS**

Second Year, Second Quarter

*Love
and
Marriage*

**YOUTH
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**

SECOND YEAR, SECOND QUARTER

Love and
Marriage

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INTRODUCTION

The subject under consideration for this quarter is of concern to most young people, although it is more more openly spoken about by some than by others. Some important points will be addressed that are frequently overlooked in the moments when the heart leaps and emotions tend to run high.

Because human beings generally have much better hindsight than foresight, everyone needs all the help he or she can get—divine help—to avoid lifelong grief in an area of life that is meant by the Creator to be the height of joy and Christian development. “If those who are contemplating marriage would not have miserable, unhappy reflections after marriage, they must make it a subject of serious, earnest reflection now.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 43.

Great joy is in store for the young person who will earnestly study what is presented here. The completeness of the love that God ordained, that has its roots here on earth, will reach to eternity.

Beginnings

“... I pronounce you husband and wife.” With these words a whole new relationship begins—the welding of two lives into one. This moment may have followed many weeks of careful testing of the potential strength of the union, or it may have been the last in a series of accidents involving fiery emotions. Now, while you are still very young, is the opportunity for you to set your feet on the right path so that when marriage comes to you it will be a divine union.

1. What are some reasons why people want to get married? List five reasons, and indicate whether you think each is “good” or “poor.”

Reason	Good	Poor
a. _____	_____	_____
b. _____	_____	_____
c. _____	_____	_____
d. _____	_____	_____
e. _____	_____	_____

2. If you contemplate getting married someday, what reason is particularly important to you?



3. Generally, marriage is God's plan for His people, but it is not for everyone. 1 Corinthians 7 presents some advantages and disadvantages of married life. What conclusion can you draw from each the following verses?

1 Corinthians 7:7

1 Corinthians 7:8, 9

1 Corinthians 7:28

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

4. Who said that it is not good for the man to be alone? Genesis 2:18.
5. What did He do about this? Genesis 2:21, 22.
6. What did Adam think of the female counterpart whom God gave him? Genesis 2:23, 24.
7. Read Genesis 2:24 again, and mark each of the following statements as true or false.
- a. Under God, a man assumes independent responsibility for his wife. T/F
 - b. God created marriage as a permanent union. T/F
 - c. Each partner in a marriage is complete in himself. T/F
8. What did King Solomon write about the choice of a wife? Proverbs 18:22; 19:14.

9. In considering marriage, how would you rate the following? Use a scale of (1) important, (2) worth considering, and (3) not important.

___ Counsel of acquaintances, especially parents

___ My life purpose

___ Prayer

___ Family pressures

___ Age

___ Schooling

___ Finances

___ Christian upbringing

___ Home situation and responsibilities

___ Recognition of desires



10. In the marriage relationship, how important is it for the partners to have a deep conversion to and relationship with the God of heaven?

“Family religion is a wonderful power. The conduct of the husband toward the wife and of the wife toward the husband may be such that it will make the home life a preparation for entrance to the family above.

“Hearts that are filled with the love of Christ can never get very far apart. Religion is love, and a Christian home is one where love reigns and finds expression in words and acts of thoughtful kindness and gentle courtesy.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 94.

What is this thing called “love”? In the English language, this one word has a number of meanings. When someone says, “I love you,” the word “love” means something quite different from what it does when he says, “I love homemade bread.”

The Greek language, however, has four words for the word that is translated as “love” in English.

Stergo: This is a love inherent in the animal kingdom, as well as in man, as an instinctive, natural affection or protectiveness, especially for one’s own offspring. It includes a sense of responsibility for the welfare and well-being of someone else because of natural ties. Examples would be children defending one another to outsiders, a mother’s care for sick family members, and a father’s providing for his family.

Eros: The physical, emotional feeling of love is encompassed in this word. By itself, it can be self-centered, always wanting something in return for what it gives. It can also be passion aimed at self-gratification, and then it tends to exploit and take advantage of someone else. It is physical love. When it is under Christ’s control, it gives deep, rich meaning to life; but when it is separated from God, it can generate resentment, frustration, and bitterness.

Phileo: This is the pleasure that comes from anything that is enjoyed—a “liking” or “fondness”—a delight in that which gives pleasure. When two people have common interests and a similar outlook on life, and when they like each other for who they are and what they do, that is the *phileo* type of love.

Agape: The word used for love in the New Testament means divine love. It is incredibly rich in meaning and describes God’s love for every person and that which Christians are to have for their fellowmen. It is awakened by a recognition of person’s value. It seeks nothing in return but is concerned only with blessing someone. The world might call this “unreasonable love,” for it is spontaneous and self-forgetful. While *eros* is often brought about by the thought, “What can I get?” *agape* is motivated by, “What can I give?”

It is rare in any human relationship for only one of these types of love to be active. In marriage, there is usually an interplay of all four, especially in the marital love that is intended by the Creator.

1. Give an example of each of the four types of love defined above, according to your observations and/or experience.
2. What do you think is the difference between love and infatuation?
3. Too often, even among Christians, young men and women do not exercise responsibility toward the person they are with, and they seek to arouse sexual impulses rather than subduing them. What virtue is often absent in society today? 1 Peter 3:7.

In worldly society, men look on themselves as strong when they have made many “conquests” and led virgins into transgression. But such habits make them vile, not manly. “Many mistake strong passions for a strong character, but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real greatness of the man is measured by the power of the feelings that he controls, not by those that control him.” *–Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 567, 568.

4. If love is true, it will be shown by action. What action was the supreme expression of God's love? John 3:16; Romans 5:8.
5. 1 Corinthians 13 is the “love chapter” in the Bible. Verses 4-6 list nine characteristics of true love. Give an example of an experience you have made that relates to each characteristic below.

- a. Love suffers long—**patience**.
- b. Is kind—**kindness**.
- c. Envy not—**generosity**.
- d. Does not vaunt itself, not puffed up—**humility**.
- e. Does not behave unseemly—**courtesy and integrity**.
- f. Seeks not her own—**unselfishness**.
- g. Is not easily provoked—**spirituality**.
- h. Thinks no evil—**guilelessness**.
- i. Rejoices not in iniquity but in truth—**sincerity**.



Love is not static or selfish; it is dynamic! If it does not grow and mature, it will become cold through neglect. People do not fall in love but grow into love!

Preparation, Part 1

The greatest decisions a person makes in his life concern (1) his relationship to Christ, (2) his vocation, (3) his choice of a life partner, and (4) the strength of his commitment to each of these.

1. Friendship is the basis for all human relationships. What is the mark of a true friend? Proverbs 17:17.
2. The deep friendship of David and Jonathan is shown in 1 Samuel 18:1-4. What characteristics were part of their friendship?
3. What are two great blessings of having a close friend? Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10.

A true friend—male or female—is one who always has the best in mind for you. He will respect you; and whenever you are with him, you can trust fully that he will never do anything that will hurt you. Sometimes he may even have to tell you “no” when you ask him to do something that he knows will not be good for you in the long run. For your relationship to be true friendship, you must be the same way with him—respecting him and never doing anything that might cause him grief or disappointment.

4. It has been said that one should not date a person whom he would not consider marrying. What important instructions are given in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18?
5. What is the reason for these things? Deuteronomy 7:3, 4.

“God strictly forbade the intermarrying of His ancient people with other nations. The plea is now offered that this prohibition was made in order to prevent the Hebrews from marrying idolaters and forming connections with heathen families. But the heathen were in a more favorable condition than are the impenitent in this age, who, having

the light of truth, yet persistently refuse to accept it. The sinner of today is far more guilty than the heathen, because the light of the gospel shines clearly all around him. He violates conscience and is a deliberate enemy of God.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 508.

6. When two people are interested in each other, what should govern the actions of each? 1 Corinthians 10:31.
7. What does the Bible say about premarital sexual relations? 1 Corinthians 6:16-20.
8. In the marriage relationship, husband and wife find the deep, rich enjoyment of the marital relationship that God intended for life partners. Physical fulfillment is an important part of the permanent relationship of oneness. How does the Bible describe this relationship? Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31, 32.

In the *Review and Herald*, August 28, 1969, Roland R. Hegstad wrote the following account of a conversation with a young man:

“What’s wrong with going all the way?’ he asked me.

“Nothing,’ I replied. ‘Nothing at all.’...

“You see,’ I said, ‘the problem is, what you call going all the way, isn’t. It isn’t even halfway. You’re really talking about semi-sex, and that I oppose very much.’...

“You see,’ I told him, ‘sex is not just a distance to go. It is not just something you do. It is something you and the person you love are becoming together. It involves total commitment of two personalities, not just the meeting of two bodies.’

“God is the author of sex, you know,’ I reminded him. “Male and female created He them.” The thing is, He didn’t make humans just bodies. He made them mind and spirit, as well. And you can’t go all the way unless these are involved. Physical sex by itself can fall miserably short of the experience God intended His children to have.

“God wrote the commandment prohibiting fornication and adultery, not because He wanted to deprive you of going all the way, but because He wanted to make sure you did, in that total involvement of being—physical, mental, and spiritual—that can come only to two



people deeply in love within the security of marriage. Outside marriage, there are always inhibitions—hang-ups,’ I continued. ‘Worries about pregnancy. Worries about commitments neither party is qualified to fulfill. That’s one reason sex outside of marriage is so often deeply disappointing. It just isn’t complete.’”

9. What actions that are very common among young people today lead easily to a sexual relationship before marriage?

“Could they have their eyes opened, they would see an angel making a record of their words and acts. The laws of health and modesty are violated. It would be more appropriate to let some of the hours of courtship before marriage run through the married life. But as a general thing, marriage ends all the devotion manifested during the days of courtship!

“These hours of midnight dissipation, in this age of depravity, frequently lead to the ruin of both parties thus engaged. Satan exults, and God is dishonored when men and women dishonor themselves. The good name of honor is sacrificed under the spell of this infatuation, and the marriage of such persons cannot be solemnized under the approval of God. They are married because passion moved them, and when the novelty of the affair is over, they will begin to realize what they have done. In six months after the vows are spoken, their sentiments toward each other have undergone a change.” —*Messages to Young People*, pp. 457, 458.

Young people who have not been true to God in a moment of passion will find that the bud of love has been picked too soon. The marriage may go ahead, and the child may be born a few months later. But in those moments of passion, a seed of distrust is planted that crops up time and again over the months and years in conflict and sometimes unfaithfulness. The total love that should have been realized is dwarfed, and only by much repentance, prayer, and full dedication to Christ can either party find happiness.



Preparation, Part 2

1. When a young man is anticipating marriage to a young woman, what qualities should he be looking for? Proverbs 31:10-31.
2. Why do you think the above verses emphasize so much about the woman's practical, everyday skills?
3. What type of a home will a man have to get used to if his wife hates housework?

“Upon no account should the marriage relation be entered upon until the parties have a knowledge of the duties of a practical domestic life. The wife should have culture of mind and manners that she may be qualified to rightly train the children that may be given her....

“It is the right of every daughter of Eve to have a thorough knowledge of household duties, to receive training in every department of domestic labor. Every young lady should be so educated that if called to fill the position of wife and mother, she may preside as a queen in her own domain. She should be fully competent to guide and instruct her children and to direct her servants, or, if need be, to minister with her own hands to the wants of her household.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 87.

4. What responsibilities and roles did God give to man? Genesis 1:28; 3:17-19.

“In life's toilsome way let the husband and father 'lead on softly,' as the companion of his journey is able to endure. Amidst the world's eager rush for wealth and power, let him learn to stay his steps, to comfort and support the one who is called to walk by his side.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 374.

“All members of the family center in the father. He is the lawmaker, illustrating in his own manly bearing the sterner virtues: energy, integrity,

honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness.”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 701.

5. Prior to marriage, the engaged couple can derive great delight by discussing and planning together what they wish to do after marriage. What advantages and joy will be a blessing to a couple when they discuss each of the following subjects?
 - a. Their relationship to God, their families, and others.
 - b. How finances should be handled.
 - c. Whether the wife will work beyond the home, and how.
 - d. Where the couple will live.
 - e. When they will have children, and how many.
 - f. Their lifestyle.

6. Should engagement and marriage plans continue if there are basic disagreements in the above areas?

“Even if an engagement has been entered into without a full understanding of the character of the one with whom you intend to unite, do not think that the engagement makes it a positive necessity for you to take upon yourself the marriage vow and link yourself for life to one whom you cannot love and respect. Be very careful how you enter into conditional engagements; but better, far better, break the engagement before marriage than separate afterward, as many do.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 48.



Communication

No other personal relationship calls for the depth of intimacy and commitment that marriage does. A husband and wife can and should encourage each other's sense of worth, uniqueness, and strength.

1. Before one can value and love others, how must he feel about himself? Only whose values can he trust in this area? John 3:16; 15:9; Zechariah 3:2.
2. What makes a person worthy of love and respect? Colossians 3:10; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:2, 3.
3. Every person is a unique creation of God and of value to Him. In what truth expressed by the psalmist can everyone rejoice? Psalm 139:13-16.
4. What counsel is a great help in loving others? Philippians 4:8.
5. How can heeding the advice given in 1 Peter 4:8 and James 5:16 be of help in one's relationship with others, especially with the one he will marry?
6. Happy people communicate well—and so do happily married people. Why can a Christian always be happy, knowing that everything will eventually turn out right, regardless of the circumstances? Romans 8:28; Psalm 37:7-11, 3-5.
7. Words are only a part of communication. List at least five different ways in which a person communicates with others.

8. What will motivate the conversation and total behavior of godly marriage partners? 1 Corinthians 13:13.

“Love is a plant of heavenly growth, and it must be fostered and nourished. Affectionate hearts, truthful, loving words, will make happy families and exert an elevating influence upon all who come within the sphere of their influence.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 548.

9. Should husband or wife hide anything from the other?

Except for matters of a confidential nature occasionally confided to one or the other partner, husband and wife should fully share their life together. Mistakes and even sins can be avoided by openly, lovingly, conscientiously discussing all matters of concern to both. When one or the other in any way attempts to conceal something from the other, a wedge is driven into the relationship that is not easily corrected. Mutual respect and trust are necessary for a deep, satisfying relationship.

10. Who generally has the greater need for communication—the husband or the wife? Why do you think this is so?

11. In each of the following Bible verses, find and summarize what good communication consists of:

Isaiah 50:4.

Ephesians 4:26, 27.

Ephesians 4:32.

Psalms 141:3.

Proverbs 12:25.

Proverbs 15:1, 4.

Proverbs 15:28.

Proverbs 21:23.



12. Who is the Source of good communication? How will true wisdom, derived from Him, be shown? James 3:17.

Consideration

The husband and wife who consistently place the happiness and well-being of the other ahead of his or her own personal desires will find their marriage relationship enriched. Nowhere is consideration—or the lack of it—more obvious than in marriage and the family.

1. How would you define consideration?
2. What is the Bible's definition of this? 1 Corinthians 13:5.
3. What other virtues enhance the picture of what consideration means? Ephesians 4:2.

Ephesians 4:2 in *The Living Bible* reads: “Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.”

4. Each of the following points is important in being “patient with each other.” Which one causes you the most difficulty, even now? How can you correct such a bad habit?
 - a. To accede to the request of another with no adverse comment.
 - b. To take time to think before responding.
 - c. Not to insist on having your own way.
 - d. Not to get upset when things do not go as you planned.
5. What important principle did the apostle Paul state in Philippians 2:3, 4? Does this mean a person has no rights as an individual? What does it mean?

6. Consider more closely the phrase, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory.” Describe an example in the Bible or in your personal experience in which this principle was either honored or violated. What is to be learned from this?

Although strife or vainglory may not seem to be the motive, too often either husband or wife may say something to or about the other partner in front of other people that brings ridicule or disrespect to that person. It may be meant to be funny or merely as teasing, but it can inflict wounds that are slow to heal or are reopened. True love and respect should never be sacrificed in this or any other way.

“There is a sacred circle around every family which should be preserved. No other one has any right in that sacred circle. The husband and wife should be all to each other. The wife should have no secrets to keep from her husband and let others know, and the husband should have no secrets to keep from his wife to relate to others. The heart of his wife should be the grave for the faults of the husband, and the heart of the husband the grave for his wife’s faults. Never should either party indulge in a joke at the expense of the other’s feelings. Never should either the husband or wife in sport or in any other manner complain of each other to others, for frequently indulging in this foolish and what may seem perfectly harmless joking will end in trial with each other and perhaps estrangement. I have been shown that there should be a sacred shield around every family.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 177.

7. For each of the following verses, write down the principle(s) of consideration that it expresses.
- a. Colossians 3:19.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 13:4.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5.
 - d. Romans 12:10.



“Male and Female Created He Them”

1. How did God create humanity? Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4.



God chose to create two sexes. It was His purpose that men and women complement and complete each other (not compete with each other). Neither sex is independent of the other. Each has dignity and is of unique value to God. Husbands and wives have been given “maleness” and “femaleness” so they can complete each other. The husband and wife need to work out their own system of roles and responsibilities that best suit them as individuals in their unique marriage relationship. The system should be flexible and adjusted as needed.

2. God’s word emphasizes the beauty and balance He created between the sexes. In this setting, what do you see as your purpose? 1 Corinthians 11:11, 12.
3. Often there is uncertainty as to what role a man or a woman should fill. But in Genesis God showed the primary roles, as well as who should carry each—for his own as well as others’ happiness. For each of the following Scriptures, name the role given as well as to whom it applies—male, female, or both.
 - a. Genesis 1:28.
 - b. Genesis 2:15.
 - c. Genesis 2:18, 22.
 - d. Genesis 3:16.
 - e. Genesis 3:17-19.
 - f. Genesis 4:1.

The Bible shows marriage to be a union created by God. A man and a woman, each with a distinct personality, background, and experiences, commit themselves to each other in marriage and become one in God's eyes. Common interests, background, education, and other things may have attracted them to each other; but it is the commitment to their unity with God and man that will cause them to want to blend the "two into one."

In a Christian marriage, the partners look to God to learn how best to combine their differences and form a new identity. They find in the Bible the best information for marriage and how to maintain and grow the relationship that God can bless.

4. What attitude on the parts of the man and the woman honors Christ? Ephesians 5:21.
5. What is the husband's responsibility to his wife? Ephesians 5:25.
6. Describe some ways in which Christ shows His love for His church. How can the husband love his wife in the same ways?
7. How is the wife to relate to her husband? Ephesians 5:22-24.
8. What will result when a wife lives in a good relationship with her husband? 1 Peter 3:1, 2.
9. What beauty is of priceless value to God and her husband? 1 Peter 3:3-5. Does this mean a wife is to be careless about her outward appearance?
10. What family chain of command did God establish? 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 6:1.
11. What blessing will follow obedience to God's plan? 1 Peter 5:6.



1. What divine principle governs the marriage relationship under God? Mark 10:8, 9.



From courtship days “till death do us part,” the marriage partners must guard against anything that might come between them. Anything or anyone that poses a threat to this oneness, no matter how good it may seem, is contrary to God’s will and must be carefully examined and placed in the proper perspective to the husband-wife relationship.

2. In establishing the marriage partnership, what two principles should be carefully followed? 2 Corinthians 6:14, 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.
3. What evidences of love did Jacob show in his courtship of Rachel? Genesis 29:16-20.

Marriage begins with two people; and 20-25 years later, after their child-rearing days are over, that is how it will be again—just the two of them. The early months and years of marriage are vitally important as the new couple establishes a new family system distinct from each of their respective families. The arrival of children will add a new dimension to this relationship; but when the sons and daughters leave to establish homes of their own, the Christian couple should be able to continue an unbroken partnership.

4. Below are four main responsibilities that a couple faces in the first years of marriage. Explain why these adjustments are necessary.
 - a. Adjusting to the realities of marriage (often disillusioning after the “bliss” of courtship and engagement).
 - b. Adjusting to the separation from one’s parents and family while taking on the new role of husband or wife.

- c. Adjusting to faults and weaknesses in one's partner that may have been previously overlooked.
 - d. Adjusting to the fact that building a healthy marriage requires time and effort.
5. In the child-rearing stage of the partnership, it is important to realize that being a good parent comes from having the right relationship to one's partner. List several ways a husband and wife can maintain the commitment to each other as their top priority when their children come along.
6. How might parents overinvest in their children and underinvest in their marriage?
7. Even after the children are gone, how enduring should love be? Song of Solomon 8:7.
8. What great blessing do grandparents and grandchildren have? Proverbs 17:6.
9. After their many years of experience, what inspiration can grandparents be to younger generations? Philippians 3:13, 14.



1. What is God and the psalmist's view of children? Genesis 1:28; Psalm 127:3-5.

"A childless house is a desolate place. The hearts of the inmates are in danger of becoming selfish, of cherishing a love for their own ease, and consulting their own desires and conveniences. They gather sympathy to themselves, but have little to bestow upon others."
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 647.

"He that gave Eve to Adam as a helpmeet ... ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 356.

2. What Biblical principles should govern the family's size? 1 Timothy 5:8; James 1:5; 1 Peter 3:7.

"In view of the responsibility that devolves upon parents, it should be carefully considered whether it is best to bring children into the family. Has the mother sufficient strength to care for her children? And can the father give such advantages as will rightly mold and educate the child? How little is the destiny of the child considered! The gratification of passion is the only thought, and burdens are brought upon the wife and mother which undermine her vitality and paralyze her spiritual power. In broken health and with discouraged spirits she finds herself surrounded by a little flock whom she cannot care for as she should. Lacking the instruction they should have, they grow up to dishonor God and to communicate to others the evil of their own natures, and thus an army is raised up whom Satan manages as he pleases." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 162.

3. Mark each statement below as true or false. Then give a reason for your answer.
 - a. One dare not sacrifice his or her marriage partner for his or her children. T/F

- b. The strongest influence on a child's future marriage is his observation of his parents' marriage. T/F
- c. Because of his many responsibilities, a husband should delegate most of the training of their children to his wife. T/F
- d. God's word—"Thus saith the Lord"—should be the firm basis upon which decisions regarding family living are made. T/F
- e. Children should be allowed to decide for themselves if they want religious training. T/F

In the conception of a child, husband and wife are privileged to share in a small way the joy of creation. And as they put forth efforts with God's help to mold the child's character, they also can begin to understand how God works with His children to shape their characters for eternity.

- 4. Who in the Bible understood God as a Father better after he became a father himself? Genesis 5:21, 22. Why? See also *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 84.

Successful parenting requires determination, preparation, planning, prayer, and hard work! "Those to whom the care of the little child is committed are too often ignorant of its physical needs; they know little of the laws of health or the principles of development. Nor are they better fitted to care for its mental and spiritual growth. They may be qualified to conduct business or to shine in society; they may have made creditable attainments in literature and science; but of the training of a child they have little knowledge." —*Child Guidance*, p. 63.

- 5. What chain of command continues when children come into the family, as ordained by God? 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 6:1.
- 6. What do you think is involved in carrying out Deuteronomy 6:6, 7?
- 7. Since the home is the primary source of Christian education and training, how do you think you would put Proverbs 22:6 into practice as a parent?
- 8. In each of the following Bible verses, find a characteristic that God desires to be developed in children.

- a. 1 John 4:7.
- b. Philippians 2:3, 4.
- c. Matthew 22:37.
- d. Acts 20:35.
- e. Ephesians 4:25
- f. 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7.
- g. 2 Corinthians 8:21.
- h. Hebrews 11:6.
- i. Proverbs 12:22.
- j. Colossians 3:20.
- k. John 14:15.



9. Family worship is one important setting for development of character. Variety during the morning and evening worship times will attract the children's interest. Which of these did your family do when you were growing up?
- a. Bible reading.
 - b. Singing.
 - c. Acting out Bible stories.
 - d. Reading Christian books and biographies.
 - e. Memorizing Bible verses.
 - f. Listening to recordings.
 - g. Prayer by all family members.
10. What should be the overriding motive in relationships between parents and children? Ephesians 6:4.

1. What is the Christian parents' greatest joy? 3 John 4.

"There is a God above, and the light and glory from His throne rests upon the faithful mother as she tries to educate her children to resist the influence of evil. No other work can equal hers in importance. She has not, like the artist, to paint a form of beauty upon canvas; nor, like the sculptor, to chisel it from marble. She has not, like the author, to embody a noble thought in words of power; nor, like the musician, to express a beautiful sentiment in melody. It is hers, with the help of God, to develop in a human soul the likeness of the divine." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 237.

2. What is their goal for their children? Luke 2:52.
3. Read Genesis 18:19—God's instructions to Abraham—and then mark the following as true or false.
 - a. Abraham was to suggest to his family that they follow the Lord. T/F
 - b. Abraham was an example of right living to his household. T/F
 - c. God left the decision to Abraham as to what he was to do. T/F
 - d. God wanted to fulfill his promise to Abraham. This would be determined by the patriarch's obedience. T/F



4. What did Timothy see in the life of Paul, his spiritual father? 2 Timothy 3:10, 11.

5. Who were the young man's examples when he was a child? 2 Timothy 1:5.

6. What was the chief means of his education? 2 Timothy 3:15.

7. What does Galatians 6:7 imply about the type of life parents will reproduce in their children?

If a child is given verbal instruction, while at the same time a bad example is set before him, confusion will result. So, if a child is to become a righteous person, his parents' lives must be an example of what they teach.

8. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 instructs parents in their responsibility toward their children. Read those verses and complete the following statements:
 - a. Parents are to be wholehearted in their own response to _____.
 - b. God's words are to be in their _____.
 - c. This is not an option but a _____.
 - d. They should teach their children God's words when they sit in their _____, and _____ by the way, and _____ down, and _____ up.

9. In giving discipline, what will godly parents reveal? Proverbs 3:11, 12.

10. What is important in discipline? Ecclesiastes 8:11.

11. Ephesians 6:4 gives two major guidelines for parents. List three ways in which each of these guidelines can be carried out.
12. What balance must be maintained in the Christian home by God's help?

"Let the light of heavenly grace irradiate your character, that there may be sunlight in the home. Let there be peace, pleasant words, and cheerful countenances. This is not blind affection, not that tenderness which encourages sin by unwise indulgence, and which is the veriest cruelty, nor that false love which allows the children to rule and makes the parents slaves to their caprices. There should be no parental partiality, no oppression; the combined influence of affection and authority will place the right mold upon the family." –*Child Guidance*, pp. 239, 240.



1. What atmosphere did Solomon say should pervade the home? Proverbs 24:3, 4.
2. What type of life did God originally plan for man? Genesis 2:8.
3. What will life on the new earth be like? Isaiah 65:21, 22.
4. Give several reasons why a home in the country is advised by God.

“Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instructions given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.” *—The Adventist Home*, p. 141.

“It would be well for you to lay by your perplexing cares and find a retreat in the country, where there is not so strong an influence to corrupt the morals of the young.

“True, you would not be entirely free from annoyances and perplexing cares in the country; but you would there avoid many evils, and close the door against a flood of temptations which threaten to overpower the minds of your children. They need employment and variety. The sameness of their home makes them uneasy and restless, and they have fallen into the habit of mingling with the vicious lads of the town, thus obtaining a street education....

“To live in the country would be very beneficial to them; an active, out-of-door life would develop health of both mind and body. They should have a garden to cultivate, where they might find both amusement and useful employment. The training of plants and flowers tends to the improvement of taste and judgment, while an acquaintance with

God's useful and beautiful creations has a refining and ennobling influence upon the mind, referring it to the Maker and Master of all."
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 136.

5. Joshua established a firm foundation for his family, as described in Joshua 24:15. List four important ways in which parents can do this in their family.

6. Read Colossians 3:12-15 and then list ten things that will be present in a Christian family:

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

j.



7. What is the source of family strength, happiness, and blessing, according to Psalm 127:1?

8. Give a reason why each of the following statements is true:
 - a. It is important that the home be attractively kept and a pleasant place to live.

- b. It is important to have a balance between group spirit and individuality.
 - c. It is important for a family to enjoy life together.
9. What should every family member find great joy in doing? Matthew 25:34-40.



When disagreements arise between marriage partners, the majority of the time it is over money—where it is to come from and how the resource is to be used. When there is not enough—and all too often, for various reasons, this is the case—friction between husband and wife can easily develop. Coming to agreement early in their relationship about how money will be managed is an important part of marital unity.

1. How should you consider everything that God gives you? Ecclesiastes 5:19; 1 Timothy 6:17.
2. What is the eternal value of all material things? Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1 Timothy 6:7.
3. What must both rich and poor Christians guard against? Luke 12:13-21.

Christians who acknowledge the lordship of Christ over their entire lives, including money, must be careful to use money and not let it use them!

4. Where should money rank in the family's priorities? Luke 12:31.
5. What lesson did the apostle Paul learn that was a great blessing to him? Philippians 4:11-13.
6. What has God given to His people so they may earn a living? 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.

An attitude that is very prevalent in many countries today—that since one can often make more money by going on welfare than by working—

is a curse to the individual as well as to society. Hard work and reliance on God for one's daily needs give self-respect and happiness. Asking for and accepting hand-outs breeds instability, dissatisfaction, and, ultimately, sin and crime. When it is necessary to accept help from others—whether from the government or from individuals—one should do so humbly and then pray earnestly for God's assistance in becoming able to support oneself and help others.

7. As stewards of God's goods, what should characterize the business dealings of every Christian? Who is thus glorified? 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2.



"He [one who utters falsehood or practices deception] loses his own self-respect. He may not be conscious that God sees him and is acquainted with every business transaction, that holy angels are weighing his motives and listening to his words, and that his reward will be according to his works; but if it were possible to conceal his wrongdoing from human and divine inspection, the fact that he himself knows it, is degrading to his mind and character. One act does not determine the character, but it breaks down the barrier, and the next temptation is more readily entertained, until finally a habit of prevarication and dishonesty in business is formed, and the man cannot be trusted." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 396.

8. What does the Bible say about debt? Proverbs 22:7; Romans 13:8.

"Independence of one kind is praiseworthy. To desire to bear your own weight, and not to eat the bread of dependence, is right. It is a noble, generous ambition that dictates the wish to be self-supporting. Industrious habits and frugality are necessary." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 308.

"Many, very many, have not so educated themselves that they can keep their expenditures within the limit of their income. They do not learn to adapt themselves to circumstances, and they borrow and borrow again and again and become overwhelmed in debt, and consequently they become discouraged and disheartened." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 374.

9. For what purpose does God bless His people with means? Acts 20:35.

10. What portions of our increase does He ask us to give for His work? Malachi 3:10.

"The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes amounted to fully one fourth of their income. So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, the faithful observance of these Regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 527.

"A conscientious few made returns to God of about one third of all their income for the benefit of religious interests and for the poor." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 467.

11. When all the family partners unite in giving generously for God's kingdom and to those in need, what blessing will they enjoy? Luke 6:38.



For better or for worse, the quality of a marriage colors the total life of the husband and wife. The blessings of a Christ-centered marriage will extend far beyond the four walls of the home to the community, the world, and to eternity.

1. What was Christ's purpose? John 10:10, last part.
2. Describe in your own words what "abundant life" means.
3. The common thought in the world is that if a marriage does not work out the partners will simply divorce and go their separate ways. But In God's view, how far reaching is the choice of one's marriage partner? Why?

"Marriage is something that will influence and affect your life both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will not advance his plans in this direction without the knowledge that God approves his course. He will not want to choose for himself, but will feel that God must choose for him." –*The Adventist Home*, p. 43.

"Those who are contemplating marriage should consider what will be the character and influence of the home they are founding. As they become parents, a sacred trust is committed to them. Upon them depends in a great measure the well-being of their children in this world, and their happiness in the world to come. To a great extent they determine both the physical and the moral stamp that the little ones receive. And upon the character of the home depends the condition of society; the weight of each family's influence will tell in the upward or the downward scale." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 357.

4. In view of the nearness of Christ's coming and the crises soon to be faced by His people throughout the world, what thought should govern their every action? Esther 4:14, last part.
5. For what important service may children be trained?

“When heavenly intelligences see that men are no longer permitted to present the truth, the Spirit of God will come upon the children, and they will do a work in the proclamation of the truth which the older workers cannot do, because their way will be hedged up.”
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 203.

“In the closing scenes of this earth’s history many of these children and youth will astonish people by their witness to the truth, which will be borne in simplicity, yet with spirit and power. They have been taught the fear of the Lord, and the Bible. In the near future many children will be endued with the Spirit of God, and will do a work in proclaiming the truth to the world, that at that time cannot well be done by the older members of the church.” —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pp. 166, 167.

6. What great joy will husband and wife—father and mother—share in eternity? Hebrews 2:13.

“The work of wise parents will never be appreciated by the world, but when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, their work will appear as God views it and will be rewarded before men and angels. It will be seen that one child who has been brought up in a faithful way has been a light in the world. It costs tears and anxiety and sleepless nights to oversee the character building of this child, but the work was done wisely, and the parents hear the ‘Well done’ of the Master.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 536.

7. How close may God’s children be to heaven today?



“Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels’ song. Humanity is still as much the object of heaven’s solicitude as when common men of common occupations met angels at noonday, and talked with the heavenly messengers in the vineyards and the fields. To us in the common walks of life, heaven may be very near. Angels from the courts above will attend the steps of those who come and go at God’s command.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 48.

“The life on earth is the beginning of the life in heaven; education on earth is an initiation into the principles of heaven; the lifework here is a training for the lifework there. What we now are, in character and holy service, is the sure foreshadowing of what we shall be.” —*Education*, p. 307.

8. What transcending joy, far exceeding the joy here on earth, is awaiting every individual who follows God’s plan for love and marriage? 1 Corinthians 2:9.